

Eire election leaves power in the balance

From Christopher Thomas Belfast

It will be a fortnight before it is known for certain who will form the next administration in the Irish Republic after Thursday's general election, which produced a hung parliament.

Six independent MPs hold the balance of power between the Fianna Fail Party of Mr Charles Haughey and the combined forces of Fine Gael and the Labour Party.

Fianna Fail took 45 per cent of the first preference vote, its worst performance since 1961. Fine Gael did best out of the swing against the Government of 4.5 per cent, capturing its biggest-ever vote and making it for the first time a credible challenger to become the single biggest party.

The Labour Party was humiliated, losing even its leader, Mr Frank Cluskey. On Wednesday it elects a new leader and delegates conference will decide next Sunday whether it is willing to try to form another coalition. Its mood is far more unpredictable than when it created the coalition government of 1973/77 with Fine Gael, but it adds little to favour another partnership.

The Dail will elect a new administration on June 30, but whatever happens the incoming Government will be in constant danger of defeat. The result was a narrow margin: 78 seats: Fine Gael, 65; Labour 15; others, 8.

Two of the "others" are terrorists held at the Maze prison, Belfast. Patrick Agnew, aged 26, serving 15 years for various offences, including attempted murder, was elected in Co Louth, which adjoins South Armagh.

Kieran Doherty, also 26, serving 22 years for possession of firearms and explosives, captured the fourth seat in the border constituency of Cavan-Monaghan. Mr Doherty is on hunger strike and is likely to be dead in four to five weeks, which will precipitate a by-election. Another hunger striker seems likely to stand.

Mr Haughey made it clear on Saturday that he intends to remain as Prime Minister. The Government and opposition parties each have the potential support of three of the six independent MPs. The Maze men, naturally, will not be there to vote.

Mr Haughey may be forced into the fascinating prospect of seeking the support of Mr Neil Blaney, a hard-line Donegal independent and an outspoken supporter of the Provisionals.

The arithmetic at present seems to favour a coalition government. However, the Labour Party, whose percentage share of first preference votes dropped from 31.6 per cent in 1977 to less than 10 per cent, is likely to make stringent conditions before agreeing to a partnership.

Fine Gael took 36 per cent of the first preference votes, a 6 per cent improvement on 1977.

Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Fine Gael leader, can rightly claim a personal victory. He has transformed the inefficient party machine since assuming the leadership four years ago.

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The Queen's safety is being reviewed

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

ON OTHER PAGES

Royal wedding security; the law; replica guns; and the ceremony
Leading article 13

The incident affecting the Queen at the Trooping the Colour ceremony on Saturday came in the wake of a recent review of security for the Royal Family after attacks on public figures abroad.

Today Marcus Simon Sarjeant, aged 17 and unemployed, of Capel le Ferne, Kent, is to appear at Bow Street Magistrate's Court charged with firing six blank cartridges from a replica gun at the Queen as she entered Horse Guards Parade to the ceremony. The Queen was unhurt, but had to calm her horse before continuing the ceremony.

The incident, according to a source close to Buckingham Palace, follows a review of security for the Royal Family and their homes prompted by the recent attacks on President Reagan and the Pope, both by lone gunmen. Experts looked at precautions in hand at palaces and the problems of public appearances.

The general view was that it would be inconceivable to stop such appearances, and that some risks might have to be taken, although everything possible would be done to protect the Queen and her family.

Yesterday Buckingham Palace would not comment on any recent review, but said that security was always kept under review. Scotland Yard, which provides officers to protect the Royal Family, also said that security was constantly reviewed.

However, Scotland Yard added that the weekend's events would bring a fresh examination of the problems of protecting the Queen. The man in charge, Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Radley, will also have to consider the problems of the wedding of the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer, which is now six weeks away.

The ceremony will bring to London a number of foreign dignitaries and the Royal Family will be on public view to and from St Paul's Cathedral.

Saturday's incident, watched by millions on television, was

section two of the Treason Act 1842.

Police investigating the case under the command of Detective Superintendent Charles Snape are examining a replica pistol and a message written on the back of a Kent bus seat threatening the attack.

No further charges are expected against Mr Sarjeant, the son of an electrical engineer, who was held at Cannon Row police station.

MPs on both sides of the Commons believe that Saturday's incident will force the Government to introduce legislation, for which some backbenchers have been pressing for several months, to control replica guns (Julian Hayland writes).

Mr Whitelaw is to be tackled again today by Mr David Ennals, Labour MP for Norwich, North, and a minister in the last government, and Mr Eldon Griffiths, Conservative MP for Bury St Edmunds, who is Parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation.

Mr Ennals said yesterday that when the two MPs went together to see Mr Whitelaw to convince him that the law should be changed, they believed they persuaded him.

But he then sent back a letter, which I guess was drafted by the Civil Service, which set out all the difficulties. Mr Griffiths and I did not accept that these difficulties were insurmountable, and in the light of yesterday's events it is clear that there must be legislation.

Mr Ennals's interest began more than a year ago, when the wife of a jeweller in his constituency was held up with a replica pistol, and robbed of jewelry worth £2,000 to £3,000.

There have been a number of incidents when replicas have been used and have led to deaths.

In Saturday's incident a member of the security forces might legitimately have fired back, but he was aiming the replica at the Queen, and might have killed an innocent bystander, Mr Ennals said.

Mr Griffiths, speaking on the BBC radio programme, The



Marcus Simon Sarjeant in air cadet uniform.

World This Weekend, said that he fired a replica Webley, loaded with blanks, in Mr Whitelaw's office.

The Home Secretary asked his officials to think again, but the result, three months later, was a three-page letter of Civil Service argument, saying why it was impossible.

Continued on back page, col 6



Photographs by Bill Wainman



A heavy police guard yesterday for the Prince of Wales at a horse riding event for the disabled at Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire. The Prince was closely shadowed by six armed detectives, and 50 uniformed and plain clothes officers were drafted in at the last moment. But police found it impossible to give real cover as the Prince chatted (right) to riders and spectators.

Landslide for Mitterrand party in first ballot

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, June 14

The Socialist Party scored a landslide victory in the first ballot of the parliamentary elections today. It gained the highest percentage of votes cast for one party in the history of the Fifth Republic. The turnout of 70.7 per cent was the second lowest in 19 years.

The Socialists and their Left-wing Radical partners would have an absolute majority of seats, without the Communists, in the new National Assembly if today's trend is confirmed in the second round of voting on June 27.

Computer estimates, at 8 pm when the polls closed in the Paris region gave the Socialists between 37 and 39 per cent of the vote—13 per cent more than they obtained in the last parliamentary elections.

The Communists polled more than 16 per cent, a figure comparable with their score in the first ballot of the presidential elections on April 26 when they lost a million voters.

That shows that the fall in the Communist vote then was not a passing occurrence, linked to the special circumstances of the presidential elections; but the indication of a permanent decline of enormous importance for future balance of power in French politics.

The two parties of the previous Government suffered a substantial setback even in relation to the presidential election. This is confirmation of the dynamic trend provoked by the election of M François Mitterrand as President on May 10.

The tactics of the Gaullists and Giscardians of putting up a single candidate in most constituencies in order to stem the "pink tide" has obviously not paid off. Coming so soon after their antagonism in the presidential election it struck the voters as unnatural.

The Gaullist scored 20.67 per cent, and the Giscardian Union pour la Démocratie Française 19.75 per cent, according to computer estimates. Translated in terms of seats, it means that they look like losing between them 120 out of the 274 seats they held in 1973.

The high rate of abstentions is a classic phenomenon under the Fifth Republic. When parliamentary elections take place in the wake of a referendum or presidential elections, the rate of abstentions is always higher than when they take place independently.

For the first time in 36 years, President Mitterrand voted in his constituency of Chateaufort for someone other than himself. The candidate this time is his stand-in, M Bernard Baudouin, who has no record about his election in this Socialist stronghold.

M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, was elected outright in today's first ballot in his constituency of Lille, which he has represented since 1973. In

the last parliamentary elections, he had been forced into a second run-off ballot. "I am really moved by this result which I did not expect", he said.

M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, was also elected outright in his Corrèze stronghold in central France. He said that the results today made it possible for the Socialists to hope for an absolute majority in the new Assembly.

The multiplying effects of the majority voting system has considerably amplified the defeat of the outgoing Government. At the same time it has led to the elimination of small or splinter parties on both the extreme right and the extreme left. Even the 4 per cent scored by the Ecologists in the presidential elections has been whittled down to practically nothing.

The Socialists will now find themselves with the same absolute domination of the Assembly that was held for nearly a decade by the Gaullists. The scope of the Mitterrand success can only be compared with the Gaullist landslide of 1968 in the wake of the student and worker riots. Then the Gaullists obtained 297 seats. M Lionel Jospin, the First Secretary of the Socialist Party, did not even wait for the final results today to comment on his party's victory.

The voting had, he said, consolidated the great shift in political forces which manifested itself in the election of M Mitterrand.

Frenchmen did not want to be robbed of their choice of May 10 of François Mitterrand and his orientations. They consolidated the old majority which had an alternative programme to offer and only proposed criticism of the Socialist Government.

But he said that although today's results were promising, they must not lead the voters of the left to demobilise between the two ballots.

Second round: Those candidates getting more than 50 per cent of the votes cast today and the votes of at least 25 per cent of the registered electors are elected on the first round.

Those less successful but still hopeful must stand again in the second round on Sunday. To qualify for the second ballot a candidate must have obtained the votes of no less than 12.5 per cent of the registered voters in today's first round.

In most constituencies, second-round voting will be between two candidates only because of electoral alliances and deals.

Chirac concession: M Chirac said that the results of today's balloting represented a clear victory for the Socialists that could mean an absolute parliamentary majority after the second round (Agence France-Press reports).

Photograph and poll turnout, page 6

Split in Civil Service unions likely over strike call

Early returns from Civil Service union meetings show a marked variation in levels of support for an all-out strike by 530,000 white collar civil servants for an improved pay offer. A crucial strategic meeting of the nine unions' major policy committee could show deep divisions.

Some Socialists believe that the Government may have won its battle to limit pay increases to 7 per cent. Most meetings of union members will be held during the next three days.

Meat debased by technology
Meat is being debased by companies using modern technology, a report by Southampton's trading standards department claimed. Analysts are unable to detect the practice. The department cites a household brand name of tinned ham that had been adulterated with urea.

McEnroe wins heated final
John McEnroe, aged 22, of the United States, won the singles event in the tennis tournament at Queen's Club for the third year in succession. He defeated another American, Brian Gottfried, 7-6, 7-5 in an hour and 50 minutes but not without another brush with the umpire, a woman, who warned him for "unsportsmanlike behaviour".

Shark hits boat
A shark landed across the deck of a fishing boat off the Isle of Wight, killing itself and injuring two fishermen. The shark was 13ft long and is believed to have attacked the boat, which was nearly sunk by the impact.

Chinese avoid clash with Haig
Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, was spared the expected clash over arms for Taiwan when he arrived in Peking. The subject was avoided at a banquet reception where Mr Haig, the Chinese Foreign Minister, joined Mr Haig in denouncing Soviet expansionism.

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Ousted MP may seek by-election

By Julian Haviland Political Editor

The Labour Party is faced with the possibility of a politically embarrassing by-election in Liverpool, West Derby, between Mr Eric Ogden, Labour member, and Mr Robert Wareing, the left-wing, who was last week chosen by the local constituency party to contest the next election.

Mr Ogden has indicated that he is seriously thinking of bringing matters to a head between the left and right wings of the party by resigning his seat and trying to force a by-election, in which he would describe himself as "Labour MP seeking reelection".

He would forfeit party membership by opposing Mr Wareing, the official Labour candidate; but if returned, he says, he would ask to be allowed to join the parliamentary party and take the Labour whip.

Mr Ogden, a Labour MP for 17 years, is sponsored by the National Union of Mineworkers. He said on BBC radio's The World This Weekend yesterday that to force a by-election "would be a tremendous gamble".

He could not at present meet the expenses. But all his political instincts and experience told him that the ballot box was the only way the ordinary voters could say what kind of Labour MP and Labour Party they wanted.

One difficulty for Mr Ogden is that he could not be sure if he resigned that a by-election would follow at once. By convention it would fall to the Labour Party to move the writ for a poll, and it might be in no hurry.

Yet that is only a convention. Any friendly MP is empowered to move the writ. West Derby is a safe seat, but due to disappear because of boundary changes before the next general election.

Barnsley clash, page 2

30 Polish attacks on Russians claimed

By Our Foreign Staff

There have been about 30 attacks on Soviet soldiers and their families in Poland in recent weeks, according to a weekly Polish communist publication opposed to reforms in the country.

The independent Solidarity trade union has also been a thorough police investigation after the latest anti-Soviet incident when paint was daubed on a monument in Lublin symbolising gratitude to Soviet soldiers who liberated the town at the end of the Second World War.

Solidarity sent a team yesterday to clean off the paint which had been put on the monument in broad daylight earlier in the weekend while Mr Lesch Walesa, the Solidarity leader, was in Lublin to address a meeting.

Mr Walesa denounced the incident on national television and called it "a provocation intended to smear Solidarity".

At the same time Mr Walesa is quoted today in the German magazine Der Spiegel as saying that a Soviet intervention in Poland would be "the biggest, senseless mistake which they could make". Poles would resist both actively and passively, he said.

The latest details of anti-Soviet acts in Poland and the assertion that 30 Soviet citizens have been harassed appear in the new weekly Rzeczpospolita (Reality), which blames the authorities for failing to act.

The Soviet Union last week protested to the Polish because it said was an increase in anti-Soviet incidents in Poland. Although they deny any such increase, the Polish leaders responded by saying they would apply stern measures against the "madmen who want to set our homeland on fire".

As General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, told Parliament, Mr Stanislaw Kania, the Polish party leader, has won overwhelming election by a Krakow regional party

conference as delegate to the national party conference set for July 14. In what are now genuinely free elections he received 365 out of 383 valid votes.

Such a decisive result shows that party support for him personally, as well as for his middle of the road policies, has increased since the Soviet Union tried to promote his removal at last week's emergency meeting of the Polish party Central Committee.

Mr Kania, whose election last September was received with national indifference, is seen now as a guarantee that reforms will not be reversed.

Also elected delegates to the congress were Mr Mr Wyszynski, the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of negotiations with Solidarity, and Mr Jozef Kulas, the Central Committee member in charge of the media.

So far, about 600 of the 1,950 party congress delegates have been selected. The Russians are watching the process closely because it is at the congress that the new leadership will be elected by democratic vote.

The Russians have accused the "extremist wing" of Solidarity of aiming to take over political power.

Yesterday, however, Mr Walesa—who has recently been coming out more firmly for moderation—said that the radicals were in a way necessary to control our work effectively to agitate and exaggerate various misdoings.

But he was emphatic in saying that the radicals could not take decisions in the name of everybody.

Mr Walesa told union members that he would like to go back to regular work "provided you elect sensible people to the union. If you elect machine guns I shall stay and struggle so as not to waste our achievements and chances as we have wasted so many times before in our history."

Bomb meant for Gardiner, IRA claims

A bomb found outside Queen's University in Belfast was intended to kill Lord Gardiner, the IRA claims yesterday.

The former Lord Chancellor was chairing a conference at the university on Saturday when terrorists fastened a 3lb device underneath the car they claimed he was using, but it fell off and was defused by the Army.

Police in the city confirmed that a bomb was found in the area.

An IRA statement said: "We meant to kill Gardiner, the political architect of the criminalization policy and the H-Blocks. The device fell off the car and failed to explode."

Lord Gardiner, who was believed to have arrived in Belfast on Friday night, had left the university to catch a flight back to London shortly before the bomb was discovered.

It was found near the junction of University Road and Elmwood Avenue, close to the university, in an area where many students and businessmen park their cars.

At the conference on the administration of justice, Lord Gardiner was chairing a speaker called for the end of no-jury trials in Ulster.

Paddy Quinn, an IRA man from Belleek, Co Armagh, is to join the Republican hunger strike at the Maze Prison, Provisional Sinn Féin said yesterday. Mr Quinn, aged 29, will start refusing food today. He will be the sixth person on the fast.

Mr Quinn was a close friend of Raymond McCreech, one of the four republicans who have died on the hunger strike and was captured with him while preparing to ambush soldiers in South Armagh in June, 1976. He is serving 14 years for attempted murder, possessing explosives and belonging to the IRA.

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Security

Royal wedding route to have 3,000 policemen

By John Young and Stewart Tisdale

The vulnerability of members of the Royal Family on ceremonial occasions, as shown in Saturday's incident, has increased concern about next month's marriage of the Prince of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer. Unless the weather is too wet or too windy, the Queen, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles and Prince Andrew will travel from Buckingham Palace to St Paul's Cathedral in open carriages.

Lady Diana will be in an enclosed glass coach, but after the service will return to the palace with the Prince in the open 1902 state landau.

The route is along the Mall, under Admiralty Arch, into Trafalgar Square, along the Strand and Fleet Street and up Ludgate Hill. In addition to the tens of thousands of people lining it at street level, buildings all along the way are expected to be thronged with office staff, invited guests and tourists who have rented window space at prices reputedly ranging into hundreds of pounds.

The Mall is bordered by open parks or by large government buildings set back from the road, which should be fairly easy to search and patrol.

But once into the Strand and Fleet Street, the procession will pass dozens of buildings containing thousands of windows, offices often above shops and approached by back stairs and alleyways.

Plans for security cover have been drawn up for some time, drawing on past experience and a constant evaluation of possible threats. At a series of meetings between the palace, the Home Office and Scotland Yard, arrangements have been examined and refined.

It is virtually impossible to screen the huge crowds that are expected, but Scotland Yard starts with the advantage that the route is often used for processions and the difficulties are known.

Police officers have visited every building along the route and identified the owners. All are now being asked to provide a detailed list of the people expected to be present for the wedding, and these people will be discreetly screened. On the day of the wedding, police officers will visit each building and check the occupants against the list they have been given.

At that stage some 3,000 police officers will take up their positions lining the route. They will be spaced four paces apart, with one officer facing the crowd from the edge of the road and another facing the back of the crowd from the front of buildings.

Police observation teams will be set up along the route and plain clothes officers will mingle with the crowds. Overhead, Scotland Yard will have the use of television cameras, which normally monitor traffic on some parts of the route, and the two helicopters they now have in service. The machines also carry television camera equipment which transmit back to the Yard.

Scotland Yard is drawing up plans to check underground areas such as sewers beneath the route with the help of public utility workers. St Paul's will be checked with dogs trained to sniff out explosives.

In the meantime, Special Branch officers will be on their guard for any hint of trouble. The watch on Provisional IRA

sympathizers and those who could pose a threat will be intensified.

Another worry for the security forces will be the concentration of foreign heads of state and other eminent guests on a scale probably not seen in London since the Coronation in 1953. Almost any one of them could be the target of an assassination attempt by political opponents.

Because the wedding is regarded as a family and not a state occasion, the guests will not be travelling in the procession. But many of them are likely to insist on bringing their own security guards, a practice which the police in Britain do their best to discourage but which they are powerless to forbid.

There have been various threats to the Queen's life since she came to the throne, but on investigation they have seldom appeared to have much substance. In 1963 George Mead, aged 43, a labourer, was arrested after delivering a letter to a clergyman at St Paul's, but was found to be insane.

In 1966 John Morgan, an apprentice heating engineer, was imprisoned for four years after a concrete block was thrown at the Queen's car in Belfast.

There were other arrests in 1977 and 1978 for such apparently trivial offences as throwing an egg at the royal car and swearing at the Queen outside a cinema. But the incident which has until now caused the most alarm was the explosion at the Sullom Voe oil terminal, in the Shetland Islands, during her visit last month.

She was well out of range of the blast, and not aware of it until afterwards, but responsibility was claimed by the Provisional IRA. That confirmed fears that, for perhaps the first time in two centuries or more, the monarchy might be under serious threat from political extremists and not just from cracks with imagined grievances.

The most serious attempt on any member of the Royal Family in living memory was in March 1974, when Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips were returning to the Palace along the Mall after an engagement party.

Their car was blocked, and four men, including her chauffeur and her private detective, were wounded in a gunfight. Later Ian Ball, aged 28, was committed to hospital for an indefinite period.

Prince Charles's programme during his 24-hour visit to New York on Wednesday has been curtailed for security reasons (Michael Leapman writes from New York).

A visit he was to have made to City Hall to be greeted officially by the mayor has been cancelled because it might have provided a focus for an angry demonstration by opponents of British policy in Ireland.

Mr Patrick Murphy, chief of operations at the Police Department, said: "We are providing full presidential protection for the Prince."

He will now undertake only two activities: a trip round New York harbour on a well-protected yacht and a visit to the Lincoln Centre for a gala performance by the Royal Ballet, followed by dinner and a ball there.

He will be whisked to and from these events with the minimum of exposure to the public.

The law

Queen Victoria incident led to Treason Act

By Marcel Berlins, Legal Correspondent

The Treason Act, 1842, was passed in a hurry by Parliament specifically to deal with acts which were intended more to frighten the Sovereign than to cause serious harm.

Parliament's reaction arose from the case of John Bean, a crippled youth who brandished a harmless pistol near Queen Victoria. The authorities thought that charging him with high treason would not be appropriate, and he was eventually convicted of the common law offence of causing public mischief and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment.

The 1842 Act was designed to plug the gap between full high treason and what were considered to be the inadequately punished offences of common assault or public mischief.

Section 2 (there is no longer a section 1) has been used sparingly, probably only six times before last Saturday. Three occasions were during Queen Victoria's reign.

Only some of the cases involved pistols. The last use of section 2 was in 1966 and arose out of two separate incidents only minutes apart during a visit to Belfast by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

John Morgan, aged 17, was eventually convicted of throwing a concrete block at the Queen's car "with intent to injure or alarm her Majesty". He was sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

A middle-aged woman was originally charged under the Act with throwing a bottle at the Queen's car, but the charge was reduced later to one of disorderly conduct. She was sent to a mental hospital.

Before 1966 the last person to be charged under section 2 was George Andrew McMahon, a journalist, who, in July, 1936, threw a loaded firearm along the ground in the direction of King Edward VIII. At his trial he told of a plot to kill the King, and said that he had thrown the gun because he did not want to shoot at the King. He was sentenced to 12 months' hard labour.

One man convicted under the Act, Robert Pate, in 1850, actually managed to injure the Queen slightly by striking her head with a cane. He was sentenced to the maximum seven years and was transported.

In 1977 the Law Commission in a working paper provisionally recommended that a new, simplified law should replace the verbose and awkwardly worded 1842 Act. The essence of the crime would remain the same.

It would be an offence to have near the person of the Sovereign any explosive weapon, or other thing with intent to use it to injure or alarm her.

The Law Commission also proposed that the protection of the law should be extended to the Sovereign's consort, and to the heir to the throne. The Commission's final views on the 1842 Act, which formed part of a wide-ranging inquiry into treason, section 1 and similar offences, are still awaited.

Apart from using the 1842 Act, the police would probably have considered a number of other possibilities, though none would fit the bill as well: common assault, possessing an offensive weapon, and—more uncertainly—a charge under the Firearms Act.



The Queen turning to address the Prince of Wales when she took her position shortly after the six blanks were fired. "The Queen was aware of some sort of incident", Buckingham Palace said. Photograph by Michael Ward

How the Queen and unflappable Burmese coped

A potentially dangerous situation was averted on Saturday because the Queen is an experienced, and very good, horsewoman who takes horse-riding seriously (Pamela MacGregor-Morris writes).

She has ridden since she was a small child but is also an accomplished side-saddle rider, having used that style for more than thirty years, including taking the salute at the trooping ceremony at Sandhurst.

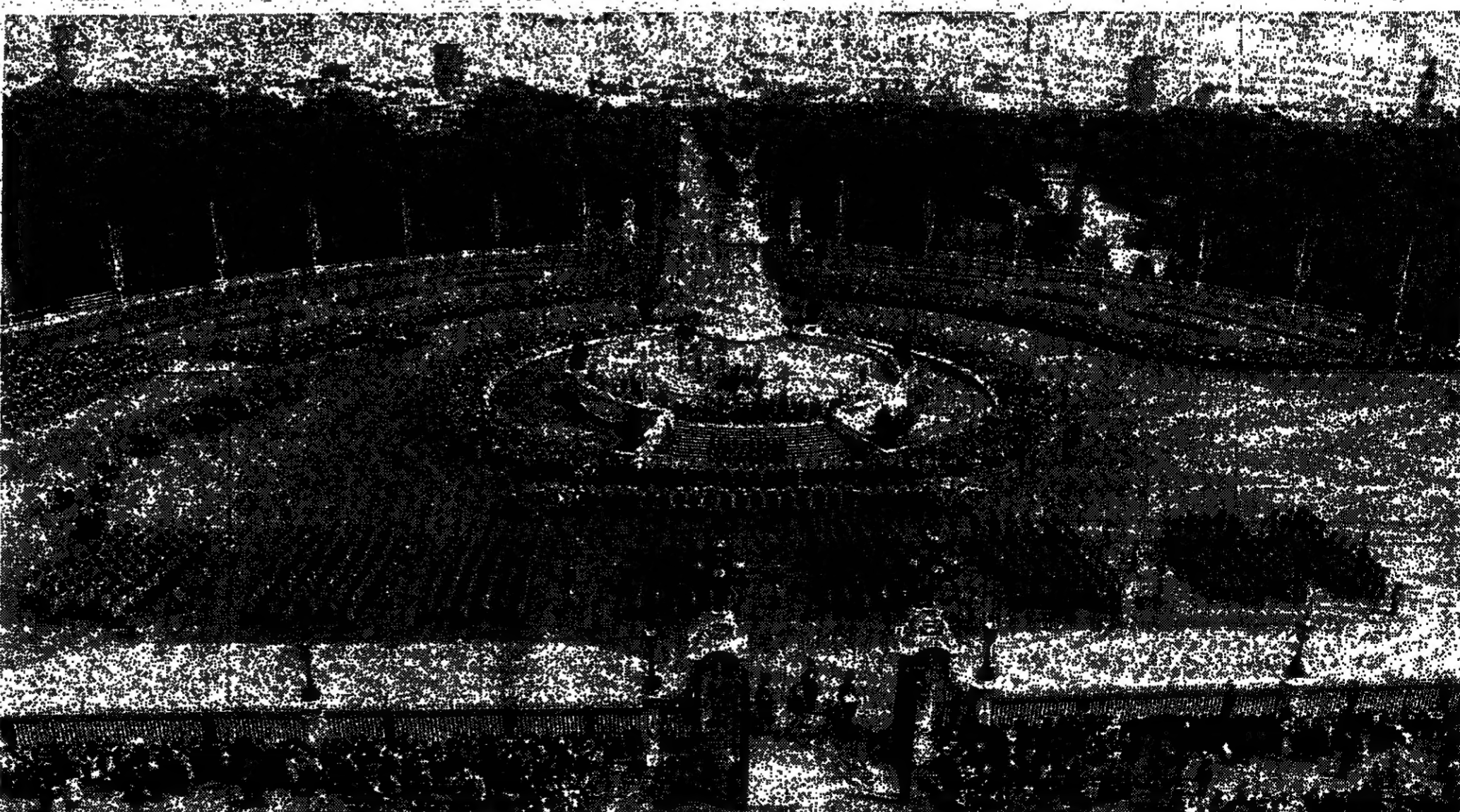
During May and June the Queen, who rides side-saddle regularly four times a week, either in the garden or in the riding school at Buckingham Palace, and sometimes at Windsor.

Her horse, Burmese, who was presented by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as a six-year-old, has carried the Queen at the trooping ceremony on 13 occasions and is quite unflappable. She did nothing untoward on Saturday, and spectators who, said on tele-

vision that she had reared cannot know the meaning of the word. The mare does not mind noise.

The running policemen and the Household Cavalry horses trying to turn round (the first instinct of a frightened horse being to run away from what ever has startled it) caused her to prance a couple of times, but that was all. The Queen parted her hair and remarked afterwards how good the and

The day of ceremony



Spectacle at the palace: Lines of guardsmen, with the Queen Victoria Memorial and the Mall in the background, march before the Queen after the trooping ceremony. Photograph by Peter Dunne

A gorgeous parade, and no one even fainted

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

It was, everyone agreed, a fine parade. Even finer than last year, it seemed, as we slipped chilled necks and aquated in the sun across the scarlet and gold lines filling Horse Guards Parade towards the bushy, green backdrop of St James's Park.

Someone remarked that the Queen looked rather pale this time, and we sympathized with her having to ride side-saddle for the best part of two hours on a warm June morning.

Still, there was a cooling breeze, and a soldier in dress uniform who entered to stand squarely to attention before the officer in charge was able to report: "Nil casualties, Sir".

He was referring, of course, not to the fate of the Queen or her retinue in the affray on the Mall, but to the fact that none of the 1,600 or so guards-

men trooping the colour of the 1st Battalion, Welsh Guards, had fainted.

Like most other people, including senior officers who watched the ceremony from Horse Guards Building, headquarters of the Household Division, we listened to the bawled orders and thumping bands below unaware of the six blank shots fired little more than 200 yards away.

It was unclear last night whether anyone had thought of telling Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and other members of the Royal Household in the room below. Certainly few of those who were on parade could have known anything about it, because most were already in place before the Royal procession arrived.

What was taken for a fine display of British sang froid was really just ignorance of what occurred.

But perhaps that was just as well, because the incident thus failed to mar what remains surely one of the most gorgeous spectacles in the calendar of British ceremonial.

Weaponry

Replica gun and extra loud blanks on sale for just £33.45

By Our Crime Reporter

Strict controls cover the availability and sale of arms in Britain, but for £33.45 anyone over the age of 17 can buy himself a "Jackal" replica revolver and 300 "22 extra loud blanks".

The gun, with a choice of fore-edge, back or high-velocity barrels, is offered by a Sussex firm which also sells "fully sized, fully functioning machine non-guns", such as copies of the Walther PPK automatic and Browning Hi-Power, used by police forces and the Service, at up to £40.

At the top end of the market are copies of sub-machine guns, which do not fire blanks, at just under £100.

The firm, based in Hailsham, Sussex, has its competitors. One in Watford, Hertfordshire, offers versions of the Colt 45 which will fire blanks, for up to £42.

Available through sports shops, toy shops and classified or display advertising, replica weapons of various types and capabilities have found a strong market. Between 100,000 and 250,000 have been sold in recent years.

Produced in West Germany, Japan and Italy, most are made of a soft zinc alloy, but some are made of steel. To prevent replicas being fired, toughened steel is used to plug barrels and the chambers of revolvers.

In theory at least, according to one arms expert yesterday, a skilled engineer can remove the plugs, but in practice the guns will not stand up to firing bullets for long and will disintegrate. The ammunition they would use would be of the lowest power available and would make them not much more powerful than an air rifle.

The Firearms Act, 1968, controls replicas capable of firing, but those which cannot be fired are not controlled. But the law does include severe penalties for the use of replicas in crime.

The legislators were clearly aware of the dangers which realistic weapons could pose. Since then some police officers claim the dangers have become a reality.

Recently in a security industry magazine Mr Douglas Gomez, head of the Metropolitan Police's firearms section, said: "They may have a legitimate interest for collectors and people with a genuine interest in firearms, but their misuse is coming to notice more frequently."

Chief Supt Albert Robbins, head of Scotland Yard's firearms training branch, said that a police officer was sup-

posed to use weapons only for the defence of himself or the public. "He is in an invidious position if faced with what appears to be a Walther... he may feel he has no option but to protect the public and himself."

Such risks were illustrated in 1973 at India House, when two Pakistanis armed with toy pistols died.

In the same year a working party of senior police officers investigated the control of replicas, and suggested that a committee might be set up to examine guns for their realism.

According to Mr Colin Greenwood, a former police arm expert, the Home Office decided that the system would be unworkable. It has looked at the situation again recently, and still does not envisage a workable system.

Mr Greenwood said that the problem with replicas did not lie with the guns but with the people who used them. If prohibitions were brought in it would be difficult to know where to draw the line, because so many things could be constructed to fire pellets. Would toys, for example, be included?

Attempts have been made in Australia to control replicas with a vetting system but no other country has yet brought in controls. The Japanese, however, require a red plug to be put into the barrel to show the gun is a fake.

The Home Office said yesterday that it was continuing to look at the position of replicas, but early action does not seem likely. It is understood that it is difficult to frame a workable Act which will not cause confusion or difficulty.

Mr James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation, said that the incident underlined the need for legal controls on the sale and possession of replica firearms (the Press Association reports).

Some years ago the Federation drew attention to the probable use of realistic replicas in serious crimes. "We can only renew our demand that these replicas be brought fully into line with firearms laws, so that they can be sold only to genuine collectors, and that strict conditions are made as to their security."

"We believe there should be a ban on sales to the general public. The law already covers replica guns which can be adapted to fire blank or live ammunition, but there is evidence that this is not being strictly enforced."



Lady Diana Spencer travelled down The Mall to Horse Guards Parade in a carriage with Prince Andrew. She wore a high-necked, blue, summery dress, with matching light-blue hat. The Queen Mother travelled with Princess Margaret.

Picket expected as inquiry opens into Brixton riot

By Lucy Hodgson

Lord Scarman begins the first phase of his inquiry into the Brixton riot today at Lambeth Town Hall, in south London. Outside the hall, a large number of black and white picketers are expected to demonstrate against the inquiry. Lord Scarman, a senior judge, is expected to take three to four weeks. Lord Scarman's office said that about 50 people have been asked to appear to give oral evidence in the first phase; many more have given written evidence.

The police today will give an account of what happened. Various organizations representing black Brixton will be represented and like the police, their representatives will be able to cross-examine witnesses. Widely considered to be Britain's most liberal senior judge, Lord Scarman has been doing his homework on the West Indian community.

Soon after being appointed to the inquiry he spent some time wandering around Brixton, absorbing the atmosphere, and since then he says he has been finding out about reggae music and the late Bob Marley.

He pronounced reggae, as all classical scholars do, with a "y". Does he like the sound? "I understand it," he said. "To say that I like it would be wrong because my tastes in music are very orthodox."

Some have asked why Lord Scarman did not have a prominent black person sit with him on the inquiry, to win the confidence of the black community. There has been some speculation that Lord

Food manufacturers deceive analysts Technology used to evade checks on processed meat

From Arthur O'Sullivan, Shrewsbury

Companies with household names were using modern technology to produce food at a very sophisticated level, Shropshire's trading standards department said yesterday.

A report to the county's public protection committee, which will be discussed on Wednesday, says some unscrupulous manufacturers are using technology in such a way that analysts are unable to detect deception. It is thought that the report will be sent to the Association of County Councils for action nationally.

Dealing with the specific legislation requiring minimum standards in certain foods, such as beef sausages, to contain a minimum of 50 per cent meat, the report said: "In checking to see whether there is sufficient meat and meat products in the product, the analyst makes a calculation based on the amount of nitrogen present. Unfortunately, the technology in some cases simply does not allow him to differentiate between the nitrogen contained therein from meat and nitrogen derived from non-meat sources."

The opportunity for deception and fraud presents itself to the unscrupulous manufacturer, who can replace the meat which should be contained within the product with other ingredients in the knowledge that his actions are likely to be undetected on analysis.

"Apart from the economic and commercial considerations, many of these other ingredients lack one or more of the essential amino acids necessary to man, all of which are to be found in the meat flesh itself."

The trade called ingredients which had the effect of disguising the true meat content "meat extenders". A technological advance had led to the isolation of protein in animal bones for direct incorporation into meat products.

"This product is then added to meat products, which, when rehydrated, has the effect of disguising true meat content on analysis. The financial advantages to the manufacturer can be illustrated by the suggestion that 1 per cent bone protein plus 325 per cent of water replaces 4 per cent of lean meat."

In another example, canned ham, a household brand name had been found to be adulterated with urea. Natural urea was the nitrogenous waste material found in the urine of animals, although in the samples examined it had almost certainly been made synthetically.

"Urea has no nutritional value to man whatsoever, and had been incorporated into the product for one reason only - to simply add nitrogen, so that what appeared on initial analysis to be mainly ham with 84.6 per cent of meat was in fact ham and urea, with only 72.7 per cent meat."

Another company, which had a household name sold chicken product which was made from chicken necks and stripped carcasses and the analyst said it had very little tissue and he found feather fragments.

The report said such examples would perhaps be considered merely a sides issue to be used to advantage only by unscrupulous manufacturers. The canned ham example, however, illustrated the lengths, or the depths, to which some manufacturers would descend to gain a competitive advantage.

Shropshire was also investigating another example in which rind was dehydrated and ground to a consistency resembling brown sugar. When rehydrated it required four times its own weight of water, and the public analyst could not differentiate the emulsion from meat flesh.

One trade equipment manufacturer suggested using what was called "the golden water tap technique" and urged "why sell meat when you can sell water?"

"Old fashioned ham" had been sold with up to 20 per cent water content.

The report continued: "It is suggested by the trade that the consumer demands 'moist succulent' products which this process imparts. If that is the case, then the extreme trade resistance to declaring the presence of the added water in the product to allow the housewife to make an informed choice between the watered ham and the non-watered ham is difficult to understand."

Craigmillar an estate with its own psychiatrist

From Ronald Fox, Edinburgh

Recession indicates a dole blow to Craigmillar, a specialist in psychiatric care, a spokesman for the estate said yesterday.

The area ranks high on the Lothian deprivation index. Families in difficulty are drawn to it because they know they can find a home there, and a home, they say, is taken by another problem group.

The estate has a community psychiatrist, Dr Judith Greenwood, who does not believe that Craigmillar will easily shake off its old image. There always will be a shadow of deprivation, she says, people needing help because of unemployment, broken marriages or the stress of being a single parent with few resources.

Recession compounds the difficult position, making work harder to find in an area where male unemployment is already four times the average, and reducing the chances of community self-help.

Craigmillar soaks up all available social services and still has hardship. But some years ago the estate began a campaign to deal with its deprivation internally and its efforts have become internationally recognized. The Craigmillar Festival Society, which runs an annual arts jamboree, has been called "one of the best" by the young unemployed, the old and lonely, the handicapped and families under stress.

Mrs Helen Crumney, organizing secretary, points out that the estate has a larger population than most, and that when it was built there were no shops or social facilities. "Places like this find it much harder to put down roots and develop a sense of community. That's why we've been successful in bringing people together very successfully, decided to try and help," she said.

Every available government assistance scheme was sought out and used. "We have TOPS, Yops and Sops, community enterprise programmes and the Manpower Services Commission. We got very skilled at discovering precisely what help was available and applying it successfully," Mrs Crumney said.

The aid came from the EEC, local and central government and other sources that allowed the society to set up 21 pilot projects. A disused church was converted into an art centre and the priorities for action were set out as youth unemployment, housing, social welfare and the arts.

The most tangible sign of action was a 100ft-long concrete play sculpture stretched out on the ground in the form of a "merry-go-round". It has been immensely popular with the children of Craigmillar.

More important have been the scores of more clubs ranging from pre-school playgroups to organisations for the handicapped. There is a music group with 15 different bands, everything from punk to trad. The noise is unbearable and the man who runs it is either deaf or a saint. But it keeps the kids off the street," a social worker said.

The society operates eight centres on the estate, including an information office and a job bureau where any vacancies are posted daily. There is a community transport service with an ambulance, minibuses and a utility van.

A thrift shop deals with second-hand furniture and someone left a cottage in the Borders where Craigmillar children can be sent for a country holiday.

The local football team has provided players for Hibis, a football team from another community group have gone on to work for television and the film industry and the area has produced an impressive number of social workers.

But the festival that has become a social service has been in trouble. The EEC grant which helped the enterprise has ended and the organisers fear they will become an early casualty in the rates conflict between the Lothian regional council and Scottish Office, which has ordered a 10 per cent increase in rates charged. The council provides £106,000 of the Craigmillar enterprise.

Recently a community venture, Craigmillar Festival Enterprises Limited, set up to carry out building and maintenance work in Edinburgh was wound up with debts of £70,000. The chairman of the festival society, Mr David Brown, a councillor, said the aim had been to use all the skills that were unemployed among Craigmillar folk, but the recession had put paid to their hopes.

It was the wrong time, he said, and the fear is that other problems for the community that it tries to help itself are mounting.

Shark dies in attack on anglers

From Our Correspondent, Portsmouth

A 400lb shark was killed yesterday as it leapt at a small fishing boat off the south coast. Two fishermen were injured and the shark was aged when the shark landed across the deck.

The incident happened off the Isle of Wight. Mr Ross Staplehurst, a local fisherman, had taken a party of anglers for a day's fishing in his 23ft boat, the Albion. They were fishing for tope and skink when the thresher shark, 13 ft long, was sighted about 50 yards away.

Mr Staplehurst said: "It turned towards the boat and dived. Everything was quiet for a moment and we thought it had swum away. Then there was a great rushing noise and suddenly the shark came surging out of the water about five yards away."

"It landed across the boat, which is only 5ft wide, so its head and tail were sticking over each end. The impact nearly sank the boat and it killed the shark outright."

One of the fishermen was hit by the shark's tail and his nose was cut. Another had a bruised leg. The Albion sailed back to Bembridge, Isle of Wight, where the shark is to be sold to fishmongers.

Mr Staplehurst said: "I have fished these waters for 10 years but have never seen a shark act like this. It just went berserk. I'm convinced it was attacking the boat."



A veteran heads for the seaside. A 1915 Bianchi two-seater, with Mr London, yesterday in the Great Thanet and Mrs C. May, of Canterbury, followed by a 1926 Dennis open top bus, leading the procession of vehicles from Blackheath, under RAC rules.

NUT TO REISSUE RACIAL GUIDE

The National Union of Teachers has asked its 250,000 members to submit any evidence of racist activities in their schools, and will reissue the guidelines it sent out in 1978.

Mr Alan Evans, head of the NUT education department, said: "It is a sad reflection on today's society that we have been raised to raise these guidelines to our members. There is so much uncorroborated evidence about the extent of the problem, however, that the union's first step is to attempt to make a fair assessment."

Cut-cost bathrooms and kitchens criticized

By Baron Phillips

An interior designer has attacked Britain's house builders for mean and shoddy standards for kitchen and bathrooms in new homes.

Mr David White, of Woking, Surrey, who runs an interior design consultancy, says that buyers of homes, less than 10 years old, suffer the most from the developers' cost-cutting.

He maintains that an extra few hundred pounds can make all the difference between an excellent, functional kitchen or bathroom and one which needs replacing within a few years.

That extra money would cost only a few pence on the purchaser's mortgage repayments, he says.

Kitchen fittings, bathroom sites and ugly lavatories are the items most quickly replaced by the occupants of new houses, he says.

"These are the only rooms in the house that actually have a working role. Lounges, bedrooms and hallways can just be empty shells and still function perfectly."

"But the kitchen, for instance, is the machine room of the house, with an important job to do efficiently. It is like putting a £35,000 car on the road with a clipped-out engine."

His attack is aimed at the bottom end of the market, where first-time buyers are particularly sensitive about the final price.

He argues that the recently started house market has forced builders to economize at every opportunity, not only to increase their margins but to help to sell houses.

Mr White also criticizes the National House Builders' Council for not laying down more stringent standards for kitchen and bathroom fittings. Under the council's protection scheme a builder is required to put right any defects in the kitchen or bathroom during the first two years.

At the end of that two-year period cover is provided only for major damage arising from structural defects, and kitchen and bathroom fittings would not be included," Mr Richardson, director-general of the council, said.

Football passport to freedom

By Hugh Clayton

Mr John Mayr, aged 24, of Cunningham Place, St John's Wood, north-west London, used his Watford Football Club travel card to prove his identity when he and a friend were arrested after accidentally wandering into East Berlin.

He did not have his passport on him and the border guards would not accept his driving licence, as it had no photograph, but after seeing his travel card with its picture of him they freed him and his friend.

Nimrod guard on Britain's haddock and whiting

By Hugh Clayton

The interior of the RAF Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft is very different from that of the Cornish fisherman's boat. Fishery and Food's computerized gallery of evidence about the machine is crisscrossed with electronic equipment.

Questions about one bank of flashing consoles and clicking are politely deflected with the explanation that they are "somewhat in the realm of the classified."

The main task of the aircraft, which are assigned to RAF Strike Command, is to detect vessels of the Warsaw Pact to the west of Britain. But one of the Nimrod's codenames, Watchdog Zero Four, has an extra job.

The crew carry a list prepared by the EEC Commission of foreign trawlers licensed to fish in British waters. When a fishing boat is sighted inside British limits, the aircraft slows to about 250 miles an hour and descends to little more than 200 feet.

There is a sudden loud hissing inside the aircraft as a starboard window is opened for a Flight Sergeant to point a camera outside. The voice of the first pilot comes clearly over the intercom: "Quarter mile... your contact... now, now, now... clear to shut the window."

The Flight Sergeant gives a thumbs up sign to indicate that he has secured a further two negatives to add to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food's computerized gallery of evidence about foreign trawlers which fish near Britain.

The skippers of any unlicensed vessels are liable to be charged and tried in a Cornish court.

The RAF can call in naval vessels to board trawlers which are suspected of fishing illegally. Last year there were 1,500 such boardings which have led to 11 convictions in cases involving foreign vessels. A further 10 cases are awaiting trial.

The Nimrod reconnaissance gives Britain the most comprehensive data available about fishing activity in Europe.

Bargaining in the EEC about a common fisheries policy has been founded on the issue of who can claim to fish in a particular area because he has been allowed to fish there in the past.

The Nimrod evidence combined with the ministry's data bank enables the British Government to check such claims. Critics say that the Nimrod is far too costly a machine which is too slow to guard the nation's haddock and whiting against illegal catches.

Ice star murder charge

By Hugh Clayton

Neil Humphrey, aged 23, a warehouse labourer, of Vardon Road, Barnet, north London, is to appear before magistrates at Richmond today charged with murdering Mr James Rand, aged 53, a former ice hockey star. Six other people arrested after an incident outside a public house are to be charged with causing an affray.

Costly calls clash

By Hugh Clayton

Ambulancemen at St Nents, Cambridgeshire, are demanding an inquiry into who used their station telephone to make more than twenty calls to Sweden, costing £80. A disciplinary hearing ordered three ambulance men to be transferred and make a contribution towards the calls but they refused to accept the ruling.

Ship towed to Holland

By Hugh Clayton

The Titan, a Japanese merchant ship involved in a collision with another vessel in the Channel on Saturday, was taken in tow by a tug bound for Rotterdam. The other vessel, said to be the Talavera, has gone under her own steam to St Nazaire, in Brittany.

Dead walker named

By Hugh Clayton

A walker who collapsed and died on Saturday on a 3,000ft mountain in Snowdonia was named as Mr Desmond de St John Croix, aged 60, of Woodleigh Drive, Bromley, south London.

Men work overtime in troubled docks

From Our Correspondent, Liverpool

Overtime was worked yesterday in the port of Liverpool, including the specialized terminals in the Royal Seaforth Dock, while the employers and the transport workers' union remain deadlocked in their two-month dispute over the annual pay award for the 3,500 men. It has resulted in three 24-hour strikes and a ban on overtime last weekend.

Efforts will be made today to get the two sides, the Liverpool Port Employers' Association and the Mersey docks shop stewards, together this week in a fresh effort to find a compromise. The employers have issued a broadsheet to dockers which says the port is in a life-or-death struggle for financial survival and any increases in wages must be matched by changes in working practices.

Meanwhile, the shop stewards' negotiating team has reiterated its demand that the pay award be settled before negotiations begin on working practices. They say that reducing the number of men working down holds to a maximum of six as required by the employers, could pose safety problems.

The employers have confirmed that in addition to the original £8-a-week increase in basic pay and the 15 per cent increase in bonus rates, they are prepared to offer another £11.42 a week to men working the twilight evening shift and £22.14 to men on the night shift.

The employers also want dockers at Royal Seaforth moved to other jobs around the port. At present they are allowed to go home on pay.

Manuscripts report released

By Peter Hennessy

The Government will publish today a highly critical report about the workings and membership of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts.

The move comes after its author, Mr Daniel Caplan, in a statement to *The Times* reproduced in the June 8 edition of the paper, made public his belief that the report had been suppressed by the Civil Service Department after objections raised by the royal commissioners.

The Government will dissociate itself today from Mr Caplan's findings, by stressing that the views in the report are his alone.

Mr Caplan, a former under-secretary at the Department of the Environment, refused to release a copy of his report to *The Times*. But it is clear from his document contains trenchant criticism of the royal commission on the ground of the high average age of its members, their inadequate interest in the work done in their name, and the appearance they give of being self-perpetuating body, insufficiently accountable to the public.

Fringe at Edinburgh expands

By Martin Huckerby, Theatre Reporter

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is continuing its runaway expansion, with almost 300 different organizations already arranging events in the city during this year's festival, which runs from August 16 to September 5. At this stage last year only about 220 groups had booked to appear.

More organizations will be added to the list before the start of the festival, but the preliminary details show that in the drama category alone there are 200 theatre groups planning to visit Edinburgh.

The drama offerings include classic plays, premieres, big band and rock musicals, cabarets and revues. The organizations range from universities, each presenting a series of plays and revues, to one-man shows, professional performers such as Russell Hunter and Ivor Cutler compete with the amateur and student players.

Helping to fill Edinburgh's theatres, halls, churches, galleries and all other public spaces will be at least 15 dance groups and mime artists and 40 music and verse presentations, including orchestras, choirs and folk-singers. Children's shows and exhibitions of arts and crafts swell the programme.

Among those taking part from countries other than Britain will be two French theatre companies, a chorus, an early music consort, four theatre groups and mime artists from the United States and three drama companies and a dance group from Canada, as well as performers from Australia, Ireland and Switzerland.

JOURNALIST DIES

Ruth Hall, the author, journalist and musician, died yesterday, aged 48, after a short illness. She was best known for her biography of Marie Stopes, the pioneer of birth control, which was widely acclaimed when published in 1977.

She is survived by her husband, Ron Hall, joint deputy editor of *The Sunday Times Magazine*. *Obituary*, page 14.

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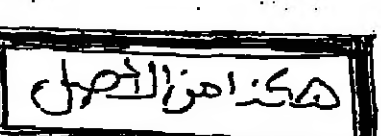
INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS

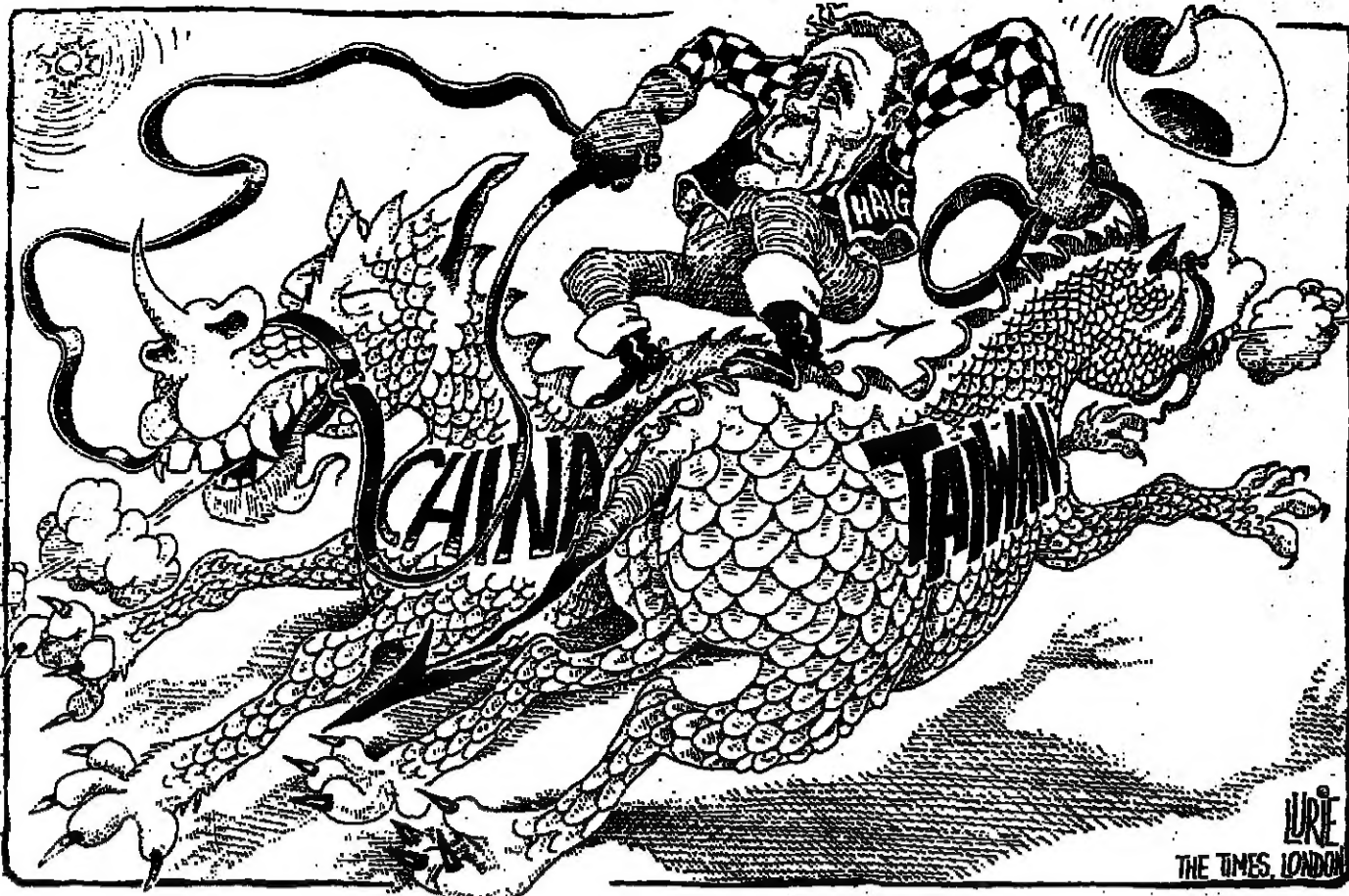
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PORT OF MUTSAMUDU

The present call for tenders is open for contractors of members or associated States of the African Development Bank not subject to boycott by the Koweit Fund for Arab Economic Development; O.R.E.C. Special Fund; Abu Dhabi Fund for Economic Development; Arab Bank for Economic Development of Africa and Islamic Development Bank.

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Taiwan may put Haig out of tune with Peking

From David Bonavia, Peking, June 14

Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, and Mr Huang Hua, the Chinese Foreign Minister, fenced with each other delicately at tonight's banquet reception here.

Mr Haig, who arrived today, is well aware that he is in for a rough passage from the Chinese leaders over the issue of American arms sales to Taiwan. However, perhaps mindful that he would be tired after his journey, the Chinese hosts put off this confrontation until tomorrow.

Both Mr Haig and Mr Huang expressed strong opposition to Soviet expansion in the Third World, and the American visitor explained that United States foreign policy was founded on opposition to Soviet "hegemony", a ruling America's allies, and building up American military strength.

These sentiments are impeccably acceptable to Mr Haig's hosts, but the fundamental conflict over arms for Taiwan is yet to be gone over. Peking has a very strong case in challenging Washington's right to

sell advanced arms to what both forces recognize as a province of China.

On the other hand, China has no wish to quarrel severely with the Reagan Administration, which in most other important matters pursues a tough policy towards the Soviet Union, much welcomed here after the vacillations of the Carter period.

What Mr Reagan and his aides still do not seem to take into account is the absolute necessity for any leader in the Chinese Communist Party to take a hard line over Taiwan.

Mr Deng Xiaoping, the main force behind Chinese policy formation is pushing through so many liberalizing measures, in the economy and in social affairs, that to be accused of "selling out" on Taiwan could be disastrously harmful for him.

Mr Huang reiterated China's well-known positions on opposition to Soviet expansion, with demands that the Russians pull their forces out of Afghanistan, and that the Vietnamese remove their occupation force from Cambodia.

Khomeini tells army to stay out of politics

From Tony Allaway, Tehran, June 14

Ayatollah Khomeini today ordered his military commanders to stamp out political unrest in the armed forces as the crisis over President Bani-Sadr grew.

"I emphatically order the commanders that political issues must not be raised in the military," he told the acting commander-in-chief and the heads of the three forces during a meeting this morning.

"Political affairs in the Army are worse than taking heroin," he said.

It was this Ayatollah's second meeting with his commanders since he dismissed the President as Commander-in-Chief last Wednesday. He left them in no doubt that he had received reports of disturbances among the ranks.

In what was perhaps a personal attempt to stifle the growing crisis the Ayatollah seemed to indicate that he was not in favour of present moves to remove Mr Bani-Sadr from the presidency.

Hojatolislam Hashem Rafsanjani, the Speaker, today braved vehement protests by deputies to resist a debate on the President's competency.

Yesterday, Hojatolislam Rafsanjani dismissed the pressure for the President's dismissal with Ayatollah Khomeini. Afterwards, the Speaker said he was not in favour of the move because it would look like the dismissal of the first President of the Islamic republic.

The parliamentary opposition also managed to get a word in today. One deputy read the entire text of the statement the President issued on Friday, ignoring the vehement protests of most deputies in the state-ment the President had spoken of a plot to overthrow and kill him.

In addition, 14 deputies are demanding an end to harassment in Parliament and are threatening to reveal all the secret talks in Parliament on the release of the 52 American hostages.

Earthquake toll: The Death toll from Thursday's earthquake in south-east Iran rose to 2,000 as more bodies were dug out of the rubble of the flattened town of Gol Bagh, Tehran Radio reported.

Wandering envoy makes his way back to Jiddah

From Robert Fisk, Beirut, June 14

Mr Philip Habib's wanderings around the Middle East took him back to Saudi Arabia at the weekend as Syria, exercising its now much-practised defiance of Israel, carried out more military manoeuvres and shot down another Israeli pilotless aircraft near Damascus.

Syrian television showed a 15-minute film of the exercises last night and the Government newspaper *Tishrin*, referring to last week's Israeli bombing of the Israeli nuclear reactor, said that the United States could not be regarded by Arabs as a fair referee in the Arab world.

Mr Habib spent five days in Beirut last week, apparently hoping to travel on to Damascus for an audience with President Assad. But the Syrian leader, it seems, was in no mood to receive the American envoy again, and Mr Habib subsequently repaired to Jiddah.

The Beirut ceasefire, the first and so far the only tangible result of Mr Habib's peregrinations, is still holding. But it is clear that the Middle East spotlight is moving back from Baghdad to the American peace efforts. This time, however, there is the shadow of the ruined Iraqi nuclear reactor.

Mr Habib spent an hour and a half talking to Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi Foreign Minister, before travelling

back to the American Embassy compound in Jiddah.

As usual, the habitually smiling Mr Habib declined to give the slightest hint about the contents of his discussions.

In fact, Arab diplomats in Beirut believe his talks were almost entirely taken up with an assessment of Arab anger at last Sunday's Israeli air strike.

Prince Saud had flown to Jiddah from Baghdad where he had met President Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader. The Prince's appearance at the Arab League summit there, together with the mutual enmities of many of the states taking part, undoubtedly contributed to the mild nature of the conference's resolutions.

The successful truce in Lebanon, a cornerstone of Mr Habib's overall plan to defuse the Syrian-Israeli confrontation, was also largely the work of Prince Saud.

The next stage of Mr Habib's efforts is, therefore, likely to be directed once more towards Syria, whose Sain 6 missiles are still positioned in the Bekaa Valley. If Syria can be induced to remove even one of the three batteries there, in return for the continuation of the ceasefire, then Mr Habib can point out to the Israelis that some concession should now be made by them.

One technician described the bombing. He had seen "massive fragments of the reactor dome hurtling overhead, as in a slow-motion film."

"When the dust cleared, I saw everything was in flames. All that was left of the reactor dome, 70 ft in height, was a shattered stump."

After the raid the French were forbidden access to the ruins. The main Osirak reactor appeared to have been completely destroyed, although it was impossible to judge the full extent of the damage.

The smaller reactor, Isis, with its 22 ft enriched fuel rods, was also demolished.

Agency France-Press.

Saudi fears quieted by Paris

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, June 14

President Mitterrand appears to have been successful, at least for the time being, in quieting Saudi Arabian fears about the policies of the new Socialist Government, both with regard to arms sales and nationalisation, and with respect to Israel and the Middle East.

In talks yesterday at the Elysée Palace, he gave King Khalid assurances that France would remain loyal to its alliances and contracts. M. Claude Cheysson, the Minister for External Relations, who was at the talks, emphasised the "very wide convergence on the main principles which inspire the policy of Saudi Arabia and France."

This is no small achievement for the new regime, whose nationalisation plans, not to mention the possibility of Communist participation in the reshuffled Maaouf government, added to Mitterrand's undigested sympathies for Israel, had caused disquiet and dismay in Riyadh. No French government can afford to be on bad terms with a country which accounts for 33 per cent of French oil supplies and is a leading purchaser of French arms.

Prince Sultan, the Saudi Arabian Defence Minister, expressed complete satisfaction with the explanations given by Mitterrand about the Government's policy in all fields.

"Both on concrete Franco-European relations and Franco-Arab relations, the standpoints were identical."

He praised the clarity of French policy towards the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

M. Cheysson said the President had repeated to the King the condemnation by France of the recent Israeli raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor and had described the right of the Palestinian people to live in peace as a sacred one, without which there was no possibility of peace.

M. Cheysson said the two statements shared the same views on the status of Jerusalem and on the Lebanese conflict.

The meeting should help, according to Saudi Arabian sources in Paris, to ensure the implementation of a deal concluded last autumn for the supply of naval equipment.

Osirak scientists describe Israeli bombing of reactor

Paris, June 14.—A group of 107 French technicians and engineers employed on the construction of Iraq's nuclear reactor at Tammuz arrived home by air today after the reactor was bombed by Israeli jets.

The technicians left behind a caretaker team of more than 20 of their colleagues. The homeowners looked exhausted and tense. Some spoke bitterly of the killing of 14 Damien Chaussepié, a technician who died in the bombing while working underground on the reactor.

The Atomic Energy Commission said yesterday that another technician was found drowned near the plant yesterday.

band Ferdinando held hands as they watched the technicians at work, but have stopped giving advice or asking questions.

"There's no more to say," Signora Rampi said, "but the people must not forget."

When a team of doctors officially declared Alfredo presumed dead, a crowd watching rescue efforts shouted abuse at the organizers, calling them incompetent idiots.

Alfredo, born with a heart defect but otherwise a bright and normal child, fell 118ft down the shaft last Wednesday, and slipped a further 100ft when rescuers drew near to him yesterday.

Television cameras lowered into the disused well with powerful lights today showed Alfredo immersed in mud, his face hardly distinguishable. Firemen said they were removing rocks and obstacles and digging a deeper tunnel.

Magistrates have indicated that the farmer who dug the well and left it unguarded

might be charged with culpable homicide. The Interior Ministry said it would call a meeting to discuss the tragedy.

Rome: As practically the whole country spent Friday night watching the drama on television or listening to the radio the impression grew that the operation was failing through lack of a precise plan (Peter Nichols writes).

With this impression went an atmosphere of growing emotion and frustration as the country followed one failure after another. And there by the wellside for all of Friday night until dawn Saturday stood 84-year-old President Pertini, never relaxing, not agreeing even to sit down as the fruitless hours went by.

The Socialists have now called for the resignation of Signor Ivano Pastorelli, the head of the Rome fire brigade who took over responsibility for the rescue and ordered the drilling of the parallel shaft.

Boy in the well presumed dead

Mother blames bad organization

Frascati, June 14.—The mother of Alfredo Rampi, the Italian boy who died in a well, has blamed bad public organization for failing to save him.

Although rescuers gave up hope yesterday of bringing up the six-year-old boy alive, firemen and engineers were still trying to recover his body.

Looking tired and red-eyed as she waited at the top of the 260ft well, Signora Rampi said today: "Errors have certainly been made... but I don't want to blame any one person."

"The responsibility lies with public structures and the lack of rational organization. No one should ever again run the risk of reliving my Alfredo's tragedy."

"In an age when technology can take us to the moon, it is impossible that another tragedy like this should happen", she added.

Signora Rampi and her hus-

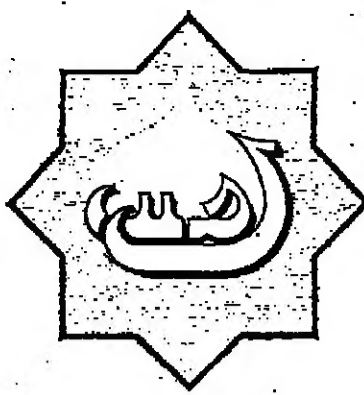
Wind beats sun-power aircraft

Cormelles-en-Vexin, June 14.

An attempt to cross the Channel in a solar-powered aircraft failed yesterday because of poor weather and additional turbulence caused by other aircraft.

Mr Steven Pacek, a Californian, was forced to land the Solar Challenger in a field just a few miles after taking off from the airstrip here, 30 miles north-west of Paris. The aircraft will be dismantled and taken back to the airfield, but no date has been fixed for a second attempt as the weather forecast for the next two days is not good.

The Solar Challenger ran into turbulence set up by a helicopter and a small aircraft which had ignored control-tower instructions to steer well clear. Mr Pacek also faced strong down draughts created by cloud, which prevented him climbing to clear skies where the sun would charge the solar batteries. — Agency France-Press.



IN THE NAME OF ALLAH THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL

FOUNDATION OF "DAR AL MAAL AL ISLAMI" WITH A CAPITAL OF 1000 MILLION DOLLARS

ALMIGHTY ALLAH SAYS:

Ye who believe! Fear Allah, and give up what remains of your demand for usury, if ye are indeed believers. If ye do not take notice of war from Allah and His Messenger, but if ye turn back, ye shall have your capital sums: Deal not unjustly and ye shall not be dealt with unjustly. Verses 278-279 (from Surah Baqara)

Make not thy hand fettered to thy neck, nor yet spread it out quite open, lest thou shouldst have to sit down blamed and straitened in means. Verily My Lord spreads out provision to whomsoever He will or He adds it out. Verily, He is ever well aware of and sees his servants. Verse 293 (from Surah Al Isra'a)

It is no sin for that ye seek the bounty of your Lord. Verse 199 (from Surah Al Baqara)

Others travelling through the land, seeking of Allah's bounty. Verse 20 (from Surah Al Muzzammil)

"Truthful is Allah the Magnificent"

COVENANT AND CALL TO UMMAT AL ISLAM

The Founders execute this Declaration to confirm the Principles which unite them and their intention to realise such Principles through the organization of an international enterprise to be named Dar Al-Maal Al-Islami ("DMI") as Founders of such, all on the following terms and conditions:

- The Founders declare their faith in Allah, exalted be his Omnipotence, and their belief in the teaching of the Holy Quran, in the ordinances of the Hadith and the tenets of the Glorious Shar'ia.
- The Founders acknowledge the religious obligation to not only manage their own conduct and the material bounty bestowed on them by Allah to the content of the Glorious Shar'ia, but their religious duty to promote the observance of the Glorious Shar'ia by other Muslims.
- The Founders observe with dismay the pernicious temptation afforded to Muslims by the all pervasive influence of the Riba-dominated financial structure established in Ummat Al-Islam in imitation of institutions alien to it, and the Founders will join in a Holy Struggle for the sake of Allah, exalted be His Name, to eliminate Riba from Ummat Al-Islam since Riba as defined by the Glorious Shar'ia is banned by Allah.
- The Founders, being persons favoured by Allah, praised be his Glory, with the riches of this world, recognise that they will gratefully fulfil a religious duty by sheltering Muslims throughout the World from the effects of Riba by providing access to Islamic Financial Institutions that are truly Halal.
- The Founders acknowledge the ethical and social utility to Ummat Al-Islam in the growth of an Islamic Financial System based on equity and social justice in contrast to the alien Riba System.
- The Founders wholly support the Muslims revival in Ummat Al-Islam, acknowledge the dissatisfaction expressed by the majority of Muslims with the Riba System and support the public demand for the development of Islamic Financial Institutions responsive to the economic and social conditions of Ummat Al-Islam.
- The Founders acknowledge the utility of the application of the most modern management and administrative techniques in the functioning of the Islamic Financial System according to the precepts of the Glorious Shar'ia.
- The Founders in their struggle for the sake of Allah to fulfil these common principles shall endeavour to secure the prosperity of all Muslims dealing with Islamic Financial Institutions expressing their belief that, Allah willing, these Muslims will be blessed with generous financial returns.
- Reluctantly acknowledging the difficulty of immediately displacing the Riba system which will require the united cooperation of all Muslims, the Founders have chosen the Halal alternative and the Founders are confident that when offered commercially competitive Islamic Financial Institutions Muslims will also choose the Halal alternative and be blessed in this World and the next.

ALLAH IS THE PURVEYOR OF SUCCESS THE FOUNDERS

List of some honorary founders

- | | |
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H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Kamel</p> <p>Republic of Guinea
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H.H. Prince Majed Bin Abdel Aziz Al Saud
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H.E. Sheikh Saad Mohammad Al Moallil
Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Chambers of Commerce of Damman
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H.E. the President Djafar Mohammad Al Numayri
President of the Democratic Republic of Sudan
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H.E. Sheikh Fayal Bin Sultan Al Qasimi</p> <p>Islamic Investment Company Limited</p> |
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El Nasariya Supermarket bldg
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P.O. Box 6464
DAMMAN - Phone: 8333847</p> <p>Jeddah
Prince Fahd Street - (Al-Sittin Street)
Al Omeron bldg
JEDDAH - Phone: 6533790
Al Malikia bldg - King Abdul Aziz Street
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Al Hafouf
hay el Malik Fayal - el Zuyyagan
4th Building - East of el Gazzal Hotel
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SHARJAH - Phone: 353075-6
Telex: 68595-6 asas</p> <p>Abu Dhabi
P.O. Box 7667 - Airport rd
Opposite Central Hospital
ABU DHABI - Phone: 337650</p> <p>State of Qatar
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P.O. Box 5888 - Al Saffaraz Street
DOHA - Phone: 321121 Ext 27</p> <p>Arab Republic of Egypt
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P.O. Box 2446 - Cornish El Nil
CAIRO - Telex: 93877 bank un</p> |
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Mugabe refuses to budge on Namibia

From Stephen Taylor
Salisbury, June 14

The commitment of Zimbabwe and the front-line states to Security Council Resolution 435 as the basis of a Namibia settlement was repeated by Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, to Mr William Clark, the American Deputy Secretary of State.

Mr Clark left here last night after talks with Mr Mugabe at the end of a visit which also included South Africa and Namibia. In Windhoek Mr Clark met leaders of the Namibian internal parties.

In a statement issued after yesterday's talks, Mr Mugabe expressed concern at any suggestion to deviate from the resolution, which calls for elections supervised by the United Nations leading to independence.

Mr Clark was accompanied by Dr Chester Crocker, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, who visited South Africa and nine black states in April to review the Administration's policy in the region.

Dr Crocker tried at the time without success to gain the support of the front-line states for a constitutional conference on the disputed territory.

Before leaving, Mr Clark said he had come to Zimbabwe to hear Mr Mugabe's views. The American party had gathered numerous facts, but many decisions would have to be made before the objective—internationally acceptable independence for Namibia—could be reached.

□ **Nairobi:** An estimated 2,000 to 3,000 foreign mercenaries are fighting alongside South African troops in Namibia according to the *Daily Nation* newspaper.

The newspaper quoted Mr Theo Ben Gurirab, the chief observer at the United Nations of the South-West Africa People's Organisation, as saying the mercenaries, from the United States, West Germany, Britain, France and Australia, have established an international mercenary battalion calling itself Battalion 32.

OAU to discuss formation of joint defence body

From Michael Knipe, Nairobi, June 14

The establishment of a non-permanent military force which could be mobilised to intervene in situations such as the war in Chad is to be discussed by foreign ministers of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) when they meet here tomorrow.

They will be preparing the agenda for the organization's eighteenth summit, which is scheduled to begin a week later.

Mr Edem Kodjo, Secretary-General, said today that specific proposals for such a force had been prepared by the OAU Defence Commission.

Mr Peter Onu, the Assistant Secretary-General, said there was confidence that the military force would get off the ground.

The case of Chad had shown the urgency for such a force, he said, and great pains had been taken by the Defence Commission to put forward concrete proposals.

It was possible that substantial progress would be made on the project during the council of ministers meeting.

The most divisive issue is expected to be the dispute over the Western Sahara between Morocco, which administers the territory, and the Polisario Front, which is fighting to establish the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

At last year's summit in Freetown, Sierra Leone, 25 of the 50 member states expressed support for the admission of the SADR as the organization's fifteenth member.

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for several years. He can be expected to base his arguments on the inviolability of member states' borders, which is laid down in the OAU charter.

As delegations arrived for the foreign ministers' meeting this weekend, there were reports from Mogadishu that Ethiopian aircraft had bombed two provincial capitals in central Somalia yesterday, and on Friday.

At least seven air raids are said to have been carried out in the past few weeks. They are said to have been mounted in retaliation for Somali incursions into Ethiopia. The flare-up in the fighting may well have been designed to make an impact on the OAU proceedings.

□ **Somali condemnation:** President Siad Barre of Somalia has condemned the raids and accused Addis Ababa of undermining his attempts to find a peaceful political solution to tension in the Horn (Agence-Presses reports from Mogadishu).

While Somalia was endeavouring to find a political, just and peaceful solution to the Horn of Africa problem, the Ethiopian regime opted for arms and hostility instead of joining us in our quest for peace, he told journalists in Mogadishu yesterday.

Mr Siad Barre, who had earlier said he was willing to open talks with Addis Ababa on the long dispute over the Ogaden, was speaking after cutting short a nine-day African tour after the raids.

The tour was aimed at briefing African leaders on his country's views on the problems of the Horn before the OAU summit.

Official sources here have put Somali losses in the raids at at least 47 dead and 129 injured. All the dead were civilians, they say.

Today Mr Siad Barre was to have visited Egypt.

Early win for Gandhi party in elections

Delhi, June 14.—The Congress (I) Party of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, scored an impressive victory over a joint candidate of the split opposition in the first result announced today—in by-elections in five Indian states.

Earlier today barely half of the 6.6 million eligible voters cast their ballots for candidates in six parliamentary and 23 state legislature special elections.

A tight turnout was reported in the two most populous states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, shimmering under a heat wave, while in the southern Karnataka and Marxist-ruled West Bengal states there was moderate balloting.

Among the 62 candidates for parliamentary seats and 199 for state assembly seats were Mrs Gandhi's surviving son, Rajiv, aged 36; Begum Abida Ahmed, widow of the late President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed; Mr V. P. Singh, the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister; and Mr H. N. Bahuguna, a pro-Moscow former Finance Minister once allied with the Prime Minister.

In the Amethi parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh contested by Mr Rajiv Gandhi, two opposition groups demanded fresh voting in more than 150 polling booths, alleging that the stations were "captured" by Congress (I) Party activists and thousands of false ballots cast in favour of the Prime Minister's son.

Mr Gandhi, who resigned his job as an airline pilot last month to enter politics, was overwhelmingly favoured to win the election at Amethi, 310 miles south-east of Delhi.

The by-election was to fill the vacancy left by the death of his brother, Sanjay, in an aircraft crash in Delhi.

The first results of the voting are expected tomorrow.

In the northern state of Bihar, notorious for election violence, at least one person was killed and dozens injured in clashes between supporters of rival candidates, the United News of India reported.



President Mitterrand casting his vote

Bright skies fail to stop voters doing their duty

From Charles Haigrove, Paris, June 14

French voters are traditionally conscientious. The rate of abstention is one of the lowest of any industrialized country. Even though they often profess to be fed up with politics and all its works, they do their duty as citizens when it comes to the point.

It was so again today, despite the first real heat of the summer and the fact they had been called again to the polls a month after giving France a Socialist President for the first time since 1947.

They could have been forgiven if they had shown signs of election fatigue. Public indifference to the three weeks election campaign seemed to confirm this. It was heightened by the serenity of the Socialists, basking in what Mitterrand has called the "state of grace" that any newly elected President enjoys, and confident that once again, as under General de Gaulle, President Pompidou, and President Giscard d'Estaing, the country would return to parliamentary majority in harmony with the presidential one.

Only 25 out of 491 members of the outgoing Parliament were not standing again for reelection. Twenty-six ministers of the previous Barre Government, and 23 of the new

Socialist Government, five of whom have never been in Parliament, were seeking election, including M. Pierre Mauroy himself.

The Gaullists and Giscardians were bound to have a larger number of candidates elected today than the left, because 50 per cent of the vote is required for election in the first ballot and in two thirds of the constituencies, they were putting up a single candidate.

The Socialists were fighting "primaries" against the Communists in all 13 constituencies where the left-wing Radicals were given preference. For the outgoing majority, fighting with its back to the wall, it was the only way to attempt to save its margin of 42 seats without which it will lose control of the Assembly.

For the Socialists, the objective was to obtain an overall total of votes cast of more than 52 per cent, which given the present unfavourable boundary constituencies, and its predominance in the urban areas, is what the left needs to swing the polls in its favour.

The Socialists had also to pull ahead of the Communists, as in many of their own and of the marginal constituencies as possible where a Socialist will inevitably stand a far better chance in the second ballot, in a week's time.

Fall in shares makes the Bourse's choice clear

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, June 14

The Paris Bourse plainly expressed its preference in the elections when, on Friday, the last day of business before the first round of voting, French share prices fell by an average of 2.2 per cent, or about 4 per cent over 48 hours.

Start of trading had to be delayed because of the flood of orders to sell, from mainly small shareholders. Foreign securities were in strong demand.

The Bourse has been suffering from a worrying disease since President Mitterrand was elected a month ago. In a average, French shares have lost 30 per cent of their value, and bonds an average of 12 per cent. The setback suffered by private banks and the industrial groups due for nationalization has been between 50 and 65 per cent in some cases.

The efforts of institutional investors and big insurance companies have averted a general crash. According to brokers and jobbers, it is a catalyst, and the Paris market will take years to recover.

The situation in the Bourse and the confidence of the market is a reflection of the loss of confidence. Brokers and jobbers explain the rush of selling by fears of a victory of the left on the part of small investors, who are rushing into foreign stock in spite of a 15 per cent premium.

insurance company results, two-thirds of whose capital is invested in shares or bonds.

What is more serious from the Government's point of view is that companies whose shares are quoted on the Bourse can no longer finance development by new capital issues. Their only recourse is to turn to the credit market, where interest rates now exceed 20 per cent.

Foreign shares, on the other hand, benefited from a strong surge of demand. Since the institution of a two-tier market by the Government on May 21, French residents can only purchase foreign shares if there are corresponding overseas sales.

This automatically creates a premium on finance for such investments. Dollars for these transactions were trading at more than 6.60 francs on Friday, against 6.18 on the previous day, while the dollar rate on the exchanges was stabilized at around 5.70 francs.

The franc has withstood the loss of confidence better than the stock exchange. Brokers and jobbers explain the rush of selling by fears of a victory of the left on the part of small investors, who are rushing into foreign stock in spite of a 15 per cent premium.

His five children have all taken refuge outside Ethiopia. His wife, Princess Seble Dersa, granddaughter of the late Emperor, is being held in Akaki Prison, Addis Ababa.

Kassa Wolde Marian was held in the cellars of Menelik Palace—now the military governor's headquarters—in what are known to be extremely harsh conditions—before beginning the indefinite prison detention during which he has vanished.

Vicious circle of bloodshed El Salvador violence wrecks reform pledges

From Warren Hoge, San Salvador, June 14

Seated on sacks of rice and powdered milk at a refugee camp, the farmer from the embattled northern state of Cabanas said he had been an Army sympathizer until troops came to his town, burned a man alive on a pile of sticks in the main square and killed a pregnant woman with a machete.

In a middle-class neighbourhood of San Salvador, a woman told how National Guard troops had forcibly occupied her farm compound, exacted a bribe from her to free neighbouring cattleman from jail and then shot her husband and threatened to kill her. As she spoke, she was interrupted more than a dozen times by menacing telephone calls.

The violence that has earned the Salvadoran military its reputation for repression is not diminishing despite recognition by senior officials that it is counter-productive, according to diplomatic sources.

Colonel José Guillermo García and Señor Antonio Morales Ehrlich, members of the four-man civilian-military junta ruling El Salvador, argued that, while abuses exist, the military's reputation is the result of Marxist propaganda.

The kind of incidents described continue to erode the Junta's promises of reform even as steps are being taken to change the primitive habits of many of El Salvador's men in uniform.

Those who have been urging commanders to curb excesses cite as a key development the arrest this month of six members of the security forces allegedly involved in the killing of three men and an American lay worker in December.

They also point out that the Army has started to take prisoners and to realize that there is an intelligence benefit to be gained from abandoning the old practice of killing anyone who resists.

Part of the problem is the lack of an effective command structure in the Army.

El Salvador has long been a violent society. Before the war, 2,000 people died each year in political or blood feuds. Today,

with the intensification of these conflicts and people dying in combat, the rate has climbed to almost 2,000 a month.

The United States Embassy sent out a weekly account of the various incidents. Each morning's newspapers are filled with pictures of individuals starkly captioned *disappeared*, *assaulted*, or *in the most chilling reference, ultimado*. They have become a commonplace that it is only newcomers as odd that they appear side by side with photographs of people attending to baby shows or back-elite parties.

Describing a vicious circle of bloodshed, Señor Manuel Enrique Hinds, a Salvadoran businessman who represents the country's Productive Alliance, said: "Many people are killed in the countryside by soldiers afraid of being killed themselves after they are discharged. To prevent this, they kill first. At the same time, terrorists kill the relatives of soldiers, policemen and guards. Many people are also killed for quite different reasons, under the cover of political violence in a country where no murder is being investigated."

Speaking from a pulpit that has more commonly been used to denounce terrorism by the Government, Fr. Arturo Rivera y Damas, the archbishop of San Salvador, said recently: "I have the impression that the repression from the extreme right has decreased a little but has increased a little from the left." This was only increasing the number of orphans and widows, ready any way from the road of peace.

There is no arm of government capable of investigating the killings, and no central authority for the recognition of bodies. Those who try to pursue cases are often murdered.

The radio broadcasts frequent reminders that the Army exists to protect citizens and first telephone numbers around the country where information can be submitted.—New York Times News Service.

Unesco tries again for accord on information

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, June 14

Sharp differences of opinion are expected between industrialized and Third World countries this week when Unesco makes a renewed attempt to remove disparities in the field of information and communication.

The main items on the agenda of a conference of the organization's Intergovernmental Council for the Development of Communication, from June 15 to 22, will be a review of information in Third World countries and the development of criteria to assess the situation.

The conference is technical in character, but the issues before it are highly charged politically and could give rise to sharp disagreements between the two groups of countries represented on the committee: the Western countries, the socialist countries, and the developing ones.

This has always been the case when problems of the press and communication have been discussed. The attempts of Unesco to set up a world information order, which involves the regulation of news content and the formulation of rules for press conduct, are regarded as a threat to freedom of the press.

This week's meeting will be the first, attended by representatives of the 35-nation Intergovernmental Programme for the Development of Communication, including seven industrialized countries and Japan. The setting up of the council was approved by the last general conference of Unesco in Belgrade in October.

Member countries of Unesco had justified the establishment of the council on the ground that it was necessary to reduce the very substantial inequalities between the developed and developing countries, in the technological, professional, material and financial aspects of information.

One of the main problems is the financing of the programme. The executive board of the organization decided to earmark more than \$3m (£1.5m) to cover initial costs. But the ambitious objectives of the programme can only be paid for out of a grant of industrialized member countries. The first country to have given support to the programme is The Netherlands with £300,000.

The aim of the majority of member countries in setting up a new world information order is to undermine Western supremacy in the collection and distribution of news.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

Ethiopia: Kassa Wolde Marian

There continues to be concern over the whereabouts of Kassa Wolde Marian, the former Minister of Agriculture in the overthrown Ethiopian Imperial Government. Arrested in July, 1974, when all members of the Government were ordered by the army to surrender or arrest, he "disappeared" in July, 1979. Officials claim he has been transferred to another prison. They refuse to say where.

Kassa Wolde Marian was President of Haile Selassie I University from 1963 to 1966, when he became governor of his home province of Wollega. In 1972, he was made Minister of Agriculture.

In 1974 when he was arrested there was also a widespread commission of inquiry into the responsibility of government officials for the effects of the 1974 famine, in which 100,000 people died. No findings were ever published, but the commission is believed to have exonerated the former minister from all personal blame. He was not charged or brought to trial.

His five children have all taken refuge outside Ethiopia. His wife, Princess Seble Dersa, granddaughter of the late Emperor, is being held in Akaki Prison, Addis Ababa.

Kassa Wolde Marian was held in the cellars of Menelik Palace—now the military governor's headquarters—in what are known to be extremely harsh conditions—before beginning the indefinite prison detention during which he has vanished.

IN BRIEF

Swiss women win equal rights

Berne, June 14.—Swiss voted today to amend the constitution to give equal rights to both sexes. The measure was approved by a 3-2 margin.

It took six years of drafting and debate before reaching the people: Women acquired the vote 10 years ago.—AP and UPI.

Premier elected

Katmandu, June 14.—Nepal's new legislature has chosen Surya Bahadur Thapa, aged 53, the only candidate, as Prime Minister. He has been Prime Minister for two years but was chosen by King Birendra.

Gold miner sentenced

Moscow, June 14.—A gold miner in Magadan, eastern Siberia, has been sentenced to nine years in a labour camp for stealing nuggets worth 3,000 roubles (about £20,000). *Izvestia* reported.

Test-tube baby ill

Melbourne, June 14.—The world's first test-tube twin, Stephen Mays, is fighting for his life again after another operation. His mother and twin sister, Amanda, are said to be well.

Cubans on the move

Cairo, June 14.—An Egyptian daily *al-Akhar* reported that 1,260 Cuban soldiers were travelling to Ethiopia on a Soviet vessel that had just passed through the Suez Canal.

Woman survives

Hamamatsu, June 14.—A 64-year-old Japanese woman was rescued late last night two days after the fact from a 15ft iron cage in which she had been trapped for 15 days.



Poles queuing for food at Traiskirchen, Austria's main reception centre for refugees.

Trickle of Polish defectors becomes torrent

From Patricia Clough, Traiskirchen, Austria, June 14

Roman, a young student from Poznan, grips the edge of the wooden bench and leans forward intently. "It is senseless to stay and fight when you know the Russians will win. They will come, they will come. No power on earth will stop them," he says.

Gregorz, a blond mechanic from Wrocław, gestured laconically. "I had to get out while it was still possible. The Russians could come any day now."

With only a few possessions stuffed into shabby suitcases and rucksacks, Poles are flocking into Austria with only one thought in their minds—to get out to the West before it is too late. No one appears to believe that the period of liberalization in Poland can last.

Neutral Austria, which has the most liberal asylum laws in the West, is the country most easily reached for those who want to defect. The trickle of Poles asking for political asylum suddenly swelled last summer with the first strikes and food shortages, and has now turned into a torrent.

While 60 Poles applied for political asylum in March, 1980, the number was 10 times as high in March this year; by April it was almost 1,000 higher and is still rising.

The Austrian Government's main reception camp at Traiskirchen, outside Vienna, a soulless former military college which has since seen hundreds of thousands of Eastern Europeans fleeing after abortive uprisings, is now coping with the "Polish wave". This week they have been arriving at the rate of more than 100 a day.

Some 1,800 Poles are billeted in and around the village, many more than the legal limit. The camp officials are working flat out from morning to night, filling in forms, answering questions, giving advice.

New arrivals sit in the shade at the front gate, waiting for the first formalities. Most are young, aged between 18 and 25, though there are many slightly older couples with young children.

Almost all want to go on as soon as possible to Australia, the United States or Canada, and the Austrian authorities are pleading with the governments of those countries to increase their intake of refugees in order to relieve the pressure.

At it is, most of them spend between three and seven months living at the Austrian Government's expense in digs and boarding houses. Some help in the camp, some relax, some study, some learn English.

Many have left their wives or other members of the families at home and hope to be able to get them out later. In the meantime, they are afraid to reveal their real names to journalists because, as one said, the people at home would really be hurt.

They are the lucky ones, by fair means or foul, they have managed to get a passport. Officially, travel from Poland to Austria is unrestricted to everyone with a passport, but the authorities decide whether you can have a passport or not.

A few Poles travel to neighbouring countries such as Yugoslavia and cross the border illegally.

"Many more people would leave Poland if only they could," Gregorz says. Meanwhile, word has reached the camp that the Czechs have started turning back Poles.

Piotr, a forestry officer who had been forced to work in a flour mill, had been trying to get out for 10 years but he was always refused a passport. He finally changed his name and in the confusion of the recent months the authorities failed to check on his past and the request went through.

Piotr was in trouble. A member of Solidarity, he had illegally printed pamphlets about the Soviet massacre of Polish officers at Katyn during the Second World War.

Others were not concerned about politics. Gregorz said he left because "there is no future, there is no chance of having anything like a human life."

Several spoke of food shortages. All were convinced to run for their lives because there was food in Poland and that it was simply being kept from the people by the authorities in order to bring them to their knees.

Roman, aged 22, had plotted for four years to escape to the West. "I always knew I had to get out," he said. "I hate communism so much I would never have had a chance there. Some people may return if the Russian side does not come, but I am sure I will never go back."

Another handwritten letter about his acting plans read: "I've been off the movie screen for almost eight or 10 years and I'm convinced that if and when I go again I must have someone else carrying the load."

All over the country, but especially in Hollywood, people are scouring their attics for letters from Mr Ronald Reagan. He was a prolific correspondent during his days in the film business. Now that he is President, his letters fetch three or four figure sums.

Next week 16 Reagan letters will be offered at auction by the New York dealer in autographs, New York dealer in autographs, New York dealer in autographs.

There are several hundred on the market now that I know of," Mr Hamilton said. "There are probably about 10,000 of his letters in existence. I am offered about one a day, on average."

"People are holding on to them in the hope that they will increase in value. But I think the value will drop because of the huge number of handwritten letters available."

From Michael Leaman, New York, June 14

The highest price paid for a Reagan letter was \$12,500. That was for one praising the charitable qualities of Frank Sinatra, the singer. The value of each letter depends very much on the content, Mr Hamilton said.

In the April sale, the \$4,000 letter was enthusiastically sought because it contained some thoughts on values in public office.

"The best advice I can give is never compromise moral principles for political expediency... An office holder should make every decision as if he were going to run for office again. In other words, thought as to how it might affect votes in the next election."

Another handwritten letter about his acting plans read: "I've been off the movie screen for almost eight or 10 years and I'm convinced that if and when I go again I must have someone else carrying the load."

Reagan letters hit the big time

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THE ARTS

Opera

Metcalf's incredible destination

The Journey

Sherman Theatre, Cardiff

A projected slide of a claustrophobic section of shelving in an institutional library faces the auditorium. Both synopsis and libretto specify a huge book, its spine (the *A Book of Changes*) facing the audience, but perhaps that was too difficult to build, or seemed too unbuildable. A "storyteller," holding what appears to be a book-club special edition, appears to the accompaniment of an ominous burst of sound from the orchestra and paces about ponderously, a cross between an Act II Hamlet and an itinerant preacher.

The library disappears, the storyteller steps aside and four figures appear. They seem to be lumbering up for a jogging session. They are, in fact, in the middle of a Journey. It will last about two hours, including interval and, if at the end, neither they nor we appear to have travelled anywhere, no matter. As we know, the Journey is more important than the Destination.

Friday night brought the premiere of John Metcalf's first opera, *The Journey*, commissioned by the Welsh National Opera in association with the Welsh Arts Council. The company's policy of mounting productions especially designed for small theatres (like the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, where this one was performed) is as praiseworthy as Metcalf's own desire to see opera keeping up with the developments of the last two decades in small-scale, flexible alternative theatre. And in writing, in close collaboration with his librettist, John Hope Mason, a work for eight singing principals, one mime artist, one chorus and an orchestra of fewer than 30 players, Metcalf and his producer have aimed to "involve" both audience and performers closely in the very journey towards self-realisation of the work's four characters and in their encounters with five more, including the storyteller, from whom three of them eventually become liberated.

The end fact, when the storyteller announces that the four "have travelled far, and believe not a word, continue to disbelieve, and to this, could not care less, is due to a libretto of appalling banality



The travellers who still "may have far to travel"

and vacuity, an equally derivative and characterless score, and an almost entirely misconstrued sense of musical and dramatic structure.

That each one of the opera's seven scenes is headed by a hexagram from the *I Ching* is supposed to "relate inner states to external surroundings"; in fact it adds no more than a spurious esoteric patina, only emphasizing, in its recollection of the Tarot headings of Eliot's *The Waste Land*, the embarrassingly adolescent pastiche of themes and images from that poet's *Four Quartets* and from Tippet's *The Knot Garden*.

The sickly written, cliché-paralysed libretto, which peddles any sense of conflict and progression, without which drama and development of character is inevitably still-born.

Similarly, the music of each scene, so we are told, uses a different pan-chromatic scale, rather like a raga. This, and the recurrence of three main ideas, "walking music" (characters walking, the movement of life), "tremolando minor thirds" (the

minister narrator) and a cluster of notes in a strident discord (the hard light of scrutiny), help to shape the work for composer and listener alike. Yet, in its heavy diction of Tippet and in its function, rather like a soundtrack, of commenting rather than activating, it too often only underlines any points of potential climax or conflict, themselves frequently reducible to the level of perfunctory bickering.

At its most convincing in the expansive lyricism of the reflective "aria" (a form it claims to possess), the music is everywhere well-earned written for the voice; yet it cannot free itself from the conventional operatic closed forms, like the ensemble, which are incompatible with the drama's own open-ended, episodic progression.

The facile delineation of each character, the intrusion of the narrator (he tells too often what could be and often already is being shown) made futile the singers' attempts at dramatic projection. That all the performers, but

particularly Lesley Garrett as Nicola, Menai Davies as Gwen, Timothy German as Scott and Henry Newman as Craig, sang with such conviction and musicality only made more glaring and depressing the discrepancy between the levels of the work, its artistry and that of the work, its execution, while Anthony Rose, conducting, drew from stage and pit performances of admirable strength and unity.

That the performance was sold out, that it had such a bizarrely ecstatic response show perhaps, how badly more "Alternative" opera is needed, how an audience cannot bear to be let down, and how companies and sponsors alike could even do worse than take note of a characteristic quotation from the programme's introduction. The individual who is caught in the net of operatic convention is on a par with the comic forces of heaven and earth.

Hilary Finch

Theatre

Leicester lamented

The Ghost of Daniel Lambert

Haymarket, Leicester

Sue Townsend is closely involved in an unfortunately named satirical television programme called *Revolution Women*. Recently she has a play at the Soho Poly with the punning title of *Womburg*. As the resident writer at Leicester's Phoenix Theatre under a Theatre Wales Writers' Bursary, she has produced a new musical play with the name *The Ghost of Daniel Lambert*. Her talent does not seem to be for titles and the new play has virtually nothing to do with Daniel Lambert, which is a disappointment.

Where Nottingham has Robin Hood, Leicester has Lambert and he was heroic only in his proportions. As the fastest citizen ever produced in Leicester and the heaviest human on record, weighing out of life at 57 stone 4 pounds, his claim to fame was his bulk, his pleasant disposition and his intelligence. So while Leicester honours his memory, Miss Townsend lures spectators into a play which is about zoning ordinances in the 1960s. At least it is more about that than about Lambert.

It promises something more to begin with, when Rick Lloyd's music for Lambert's funeral in 1809 threatens to

evoke a mood like that of *Sweeney Todd*. Instead of developing any character for Lambert, however, Miss Townsend authorizes him to watch the changes in Leicester over the centuries, and, since the first things that seem to catch his interest are the closing of the Palace Theatre in 1959 and the appearance of some teddy boys at the Bell Hotel, he skips the intervening years and the music becomes distinctly pop.

What Miss Townsend clearly has in mind is a lament for Leicester, probably as it was in her youngest days. Her specific target for complaint, in a nicely ironic detail, is the unpleasant, modern Haymarket Centre which houses the more likable Haymarket Theatre, where her play is being presented for the Leicester Festival. In nearby Coventry it took German bombs to knock down the ancient buildings; an urge to be modern cost Leicester its centre, and Miss Townsend demonstrably touches a chord with some of the places she recalls. The audience calls out its recognition.

Some good performers, including Victoria Hardcastle and David Brett, do nothing to hide the show's structure as a revue. In cleverly set jokes and some of her lyrics, Miss Townsend shows talent, but she wastes the figure of Lambert and catalogues petty complaints without giving them the significance she assumes.

Ned Chaillet

Dance

Stuttgart Ballet

Coliseum

The premiere on Friday of the final programme in the Stuttgart Ballet's London season ended with an exciting surprise when Richard Cragan, who had danced the lead in Glen Tetley's *Rite of Spring*, insisted on repeating the whole final section because the flying effects, which should have him tumbling across the curtain falls, refused to work first time round.

Tetley's *Rite* was previously shown in London a few years ago by the American Ballet Theatre, but they were then not at their best, except for some principals, and the Stuttgart company give a much stronger account of the work as a whole. Cragan's explosively-muscular performance has immense personality behind it, too, and Melinda Witman shows both feeling and flexibility in this male-dominated choreography.

The centrepiece of the programme is Jiri Kylian's *Return to the Source*. In scale, this looks like a chamber work rather than a ballet for opera houses: the music is piano solo by Janacek (beautifully played by Glenn Prince) and there are only ever three or four dancers on stage at any moment.

Appearances are deceptive. The scope of the imagination behind the ballet is large, and that affects both the quality of the movement and the intensity of feeling that comes through the dancing. The ballet needs, and fills, a stage and auditorium as big as the Coliseum. The point of the title is that of death being a return to a land that we came from but do

not remember. There could hardly be any specific illustration of that in the choreography, but the dances do convey a sense of exploration and contemplation, filled with solemnity and exhilaration at the same time.

The programme opened with two duets framed by two trios. Birgit Keil, Vladimir Kios and Reid Anderson, in the final trio, have the most shining examples of the amazingly complex partnering that recurs all through the work, but Lucia Lennart and Christian Fallanga come close to that in their duet.

The programme opened with John Cranco's *Presence*, a strange and fascinating dance-theatre work which I wrote about a few weeks ago after seeing good examples of it in the curiously assorted batch of great romantics at its London premiere, two of the original cast were there: Marcia Haydees as the frowsy Molly Bloom, and Richard Cragan as the on-like Ulysses, joined by Christopher Boatwright as a hopelessly optimistic Don Quixote. The ballet's imagination and fun are unique, indescribable but unforgettable.

In an attempt to show as much as possible of their recent work, the company has not brought quite such a balanced repertoire this time as on previous visits. But the Kylian ballets, both new here, would alone have justified the adventurous choice. The dancing has the momentum and intensity of feeling that comes through the dancing. The ballet needs, and fills, a stage and auditorium as big as the Coliseum. The point of the title is that of death being a return to a land that we came from but do

John Percival

The Two Pigeons

Covent Garden

Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet has a better record than its sister company for bringing on young dancers. At the last performance of its season at the Royal Opera House on Saturday it put out a cast of principals for *The Two Pigeons* all in their teens or twenties. The young enthusiasm from the audience will, I hope, be reported to the top brass of the Covent Garden Royal Ballet, in New York for their opening at the Met, and should help overcome their timorousness in this respect.

Nicola Katrak first danced the heroine at her graduation performance, and it was obvious at once that she had a very special quality. Later she has taken the part occasionally on the company's travels, but this was her first time in it at Covent Garden. The good news is that she proved her initial success to have been the result of lasting values not just youthful charm and luck.

The bubbling good humour that she brings to the comic scenes is matched by the toughness with which she fights back when losing her man, and on the particular character of the English parish church, close by Britten's home, where they were first performed.

The church was an important part of it. These works are in a sense ritual, like medieval dramas acted ceremonially by monks, who enter and afterwards depart singing the plainchant on which each piece is based, leaving it resonating in the church and — for weeks

meaning, every phrase smoothly composed, and every dance grows with personal conviction. Roland Price was playing the young man for the first time and, although he has been given many roles to dance almost from the time he joined the company two years ago, it was also the first time he had any character to play. To expect much depth of interpretation would be wrong at this stage, but his eager enthusiasm and good looks carried him through, and he brings a breadth and brightness to the roles which are exhilarating to watch.

The other leading part, as the gypsy temptress, was taken by Karen Donovan, who had played it just once before, at the Royal Ballet School's performance last year. She not only is young, but looks even younger, so that her shoulder-shaking, eye-flashing section of the young man's mad love in mind of these precocious under-age girls for whom glibbed gentlemen find themselves facing prison.

Yet she does it all with enormous gusto, and the speed, strength and sharpness of her solos are remarkable. With Stephen Wicks a powerfully resilient spiky chief, Kim Ledger an insouciant slippery pickpocket and the whole company at its blithe best, it was a pretty remarkable performance altogether.

John Percival

Books

A mysterious charm graphically displayed

Henley Royal Regatta

By Christopher Dodd

(Stanley Paul, £9.95)

Rudie Lehmann, who with a fine disregard for conventional loyalties coached Oxford and Cambridge boat crews in the last century, believed that "given a healthy frame and sound organs immersed to fatigue by the sports of English boyhood, given also an alert intelligence, there is no reason in the nature of things why oarsmanship should not eventually become both an exercise and a pleasure". There are still those who subscribe to this view of the nature of things. Indeed the author of this entertaining breezy book tells us that Lord Cottesloe believes that "rowing in an eight-oared boat, when the rowers are perfectly together and goes well is probably about as near heaven as one can get on earth".

This astonishing idea is supported, in theory at least, by many of the characters who crop up in the pages of this history. One can't help feeling, however, that many of them are more interested in the apron-row than the "single thrust of forward-flashing wrists" and "the grim yet heartening sound of splendid and unbroken strength when all eight blades crashed in together".

The one undeniable fact that emerges from Mr Dodd's researches is that rowing hearties love a party. He quotes a Breconshire celebration "on the usual lines" of oysters, dressed crab, grilled bones, poached eggs and wine followed by a choice of four punches made from whisky, rum, gin, or brandy. In 1839 96 men of the First Trinity Boat Club consumed 70 bottles of champagne, 38 of Moselle, 12 of claret, 17 of

sherry, 57 quarts of ale and 55 7/8 of stout of punch. And it still goes on. Even the 1980 Henley had the Lady Victoria Boat Club of Belfast singing *The Road to Mandalay* at their annual reunion, a victorious American eight celebrating with a ton of champagne, and two oarsmen leaping naked from the town bridge.

Balanced against these excesses are some gruesome privations. Victorian crews used to train on one glass of water with breakfast, two with lunch, one with supper, and positively no baths. They invariably developed boils. A modern British oarsman is quoted as saying "I enjoy rowing in a macabre, masochistic sort of way, but we are not here for any ethereal good British sporting feeling. We are here to win".

But such sentiments are rare in this book which is, on the whole, more concerned with Henley's elegance and amusement than its professional achievements, even though there are complete lists of winners and records as appendices. Mr Dodd's greatest strength is his eye for anecdote. I enjoyed the Swiss cox who found the spectacle of a spotty youth in a boat calling out "Well rowed, Grasshoppers", so funny that he began to laugh one loud and blew the race. The description of last year's Henley is especially graphic and particularly effective in its portrait of the present Chairman of the Henley Stewards, a Solihull-smoking QC, who drives a 1938 Bentley and collects Hockney prints and postage stamps. His favourite expression is, apparently, "I like it, I like it a lot", and although, after reading this, the charm of Henley remains as essentially mysterious as ever, one is inclined to agree.

Tim Heald



Rock

Defunkt

The Venue

In times of aesthetic doubt and distress, young white rock musicians traditionally turn for inspiration to black popular music. So it was with the Beatles, who, like the rest of the world, so it is today, with projects as various as Adam and the Ants and the David Byrne/Brian Eno collaboration. Having no passion of their own, their solution is simple: borrow it.

Just now the syndrome is also manifesting itself in a craze for funk: harsh, tough, worldly music, its anti-European internal organization appealing to the chic, atavistic urges of the new bohemia. It was to satisfy this craving that Joseph Bowie assembled his present sextet, Defunkt.

Bowie, a trombonist, comes from a St Louis family with deep roots in all kinds of black popular music; his brother, Byron, plays tenor saxophone in the band, and concocts its arrangements. Joseph has been involved in free improvisation so he is presumably accustomed to predominantly white audi-

es; what must he make, though, of the rock world's sudden passion? Does he ask himself why, among a crowd of several hundred at the Venue, there were no more than a dozen black faces looking on?

He certainly plays up to his new following. The visual style is an accumulation of idioms, centered on the black hipster mode of the 1940s—loud ties, peg-top pants, snap-brim hats: an image ripe for development by young fops growing out of their Spandau Ballet costumes.

The rock elite loves irony: it would rather hear Defunkt's parodies of Chic ("In the Good Times") and James Brown ("Thermo-Nuclear Sweat") than their sources. Like Frank Zappa, however, Joseph Bowie is incapable of writing his own "Good Times" or "Cold Sweat"; he can only respond.

After a while, the constant stream of references grew boring. Byron's squeals, Joseph's blasts, Kim Clark's churning bass guitar, a slinky lounge swing were all coded references to black music history, all fatally distanced.

Richard Williams

Aldeburgh Festival

The Prodigal Son

Snappe Maltings

I cannot be alone in reckoning the three church parables—*Curlew River*, *The Burning of the Furnace* and *The Prodigal Son*—as the richest memories from the Aldeburgh Festivals of the 1960s.

These works drew on so many vital sources: on the genius not only of Britten himself, but also of his fellow musicians (Pearcy, Shirley Quirk, Tear, Luxon, Drake, to name just a few), and the extraordinarily gifted leading instrumentalists of the English Opera Group, on musical and spiritual traditions of the East, and of much nearer at hand, and on the particular character of the English parish church, close by Britten's home, where they were first performed.

The church was an important part of it. These works are in a sense ritual, like medieval dramas acted ceremonially by monks, who enter and afterwards depart singing the plainchant on which each piece is based, leaving it resonating in the church and — for weeks

months ahead — in our ears. So the decision to revive one of them to open this year's Aldeburgh Festival on Friday, Snappe Maltings rather than at Orford, was at the same time welcome and questionable.

Indeed it seems slightly ironic that, while some musicians anxiously strive after authentic performance practice, Aldeburgh Festival should wantonly jettison its own. Doubtless there are good economic reasons, but it does change the work. Its liturgical aspect becomes, as it were, an act rather than a semi-reality; we are now an audience, not a semi-congregation. Then it affects the work acoustically. It is composed — especially those passages of heterophony, with a line constantly overlapping itself — with an ecclesiastical blurr at part of its orchestration, and is not assisted by the Snappe clarity.

The Prodigal Son is arguably the least individual, and least successful, of the church parables, and has most to gain from its transposition, in particular, to a secular dramatic impact. Colin Graham's dramatic round wooden platform is

retained, and so are Annena Stubbs's costumes, but now Christopher Renshaw, the alert new producer, uses them more forcefully. Acolytes draw a curtain (increasingly bemused in blood as the Prodigal Son's sins multiply) around the main action, light creates striking revelations and concealments, and the main body of the monks play a much more active role.

The master corrupter and the Abbot are now sung by Kenneth Bowen. No point in saying that he lacks the suggestiveness and irony of a Pearcy; at any rate, he articulates the words with model clarity, sings strongly and precisely, and finds a nice harmony of intonation with the jazzy rattles of his partner, the muted trumpet. Bernard Dickinson is the Prodigal, better in the moving repentant speech at the end than as a rake, in which capacity he seemed rather bland and monochrome. His elder brother is tellingly played and sung by William Shimmell, and his father is done with great warmth and minimum pompousness by Thomas Henley. The admirable musical director is Stuart Bedford.

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GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

"A family on the throne is an interesting idea. It brings down the pride of sovereignty to the level of petty life," wrote Walter Bagehot 100 years ago. On Saturday that was so nearly true. The pride of sovereignty could not be more vividly portrayed than with the pageantry of the annual Queen's Birthday Parade when the sovereign reviews her guards. The nation was wrapped in one of those moments of symbolism when the continuity of our traditions and the dignity of our institutions are on display, with the monarch as the fulcrum of the ceremonial. In a moment, as shots rang out, it was not just that symbolism which was in jeopardy — that continuity — but, to borrow from Bagehot again, the level of petty life itself. A Queen, surrounded with honour and on a chariot, was the target; but also, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, doyenne of a dozen cousins whose collective endeavours give the British monarchy its unique breadth and stability. An attack on the Queen, therefore, would not just have been an attack on the symbol of the nation, but on a real family. It would thus, symbolically, twice over have been an attack on us all.

It is understandable, therefore, that a first reaction to Saturday's drama is to call for greater protection for the Queen and members of the Royal Family. No event could more cogently convey the Queen's absolute vulnerability to attack than when she is moving among the people as the focus of a time-worn ceremonial with no practicable possibility of protection close at hand.

A few minutes' thought about

the problem of protecting the Royal Family, however, lead to the conclusion that the Queen and her relations cannot both receive the kind of protection accorded to, say, President Reagan, and continue to fulfil their public duties in any manner comparable to the way they fulfil them now. We have seen in Washington that even the most elaborate and professional presidential security operation is fallible. Yet the essence of our monarchy is its visibility, and its occasional proximity.

Presidents and prime ministers can go about their business under conditions of stringent security, if necessary, keeping secret the advance details of their programme, and restricting their public exposure accordingly. That is the business of government; the business of Royalty is to be seen. Eliminate the first, and the government machine suffers a damaging hiatus, as in Washington last March; eliminate the second, and the nation mourns or is outraged at an attack on its very soul but to be brutal about it, the succession to the Queen assured. There is a line of princes to take her place. When a king dies the cry is "Long live the king".

There is thus no halfway house here, between placing the Royal Family in a cocoon of security, from which it would venture forth rarely, and with a disfiguring degree of protection, and letting it move among the people in a way which exposes it fully to the risk of the individual crackpot with a gun. We must hope that skilful intelligence can provide some defence against any planned conspiracy against the Queen or

her family, and Saturday's event certainly shows the need for some detailed contingency plans to whisk her away from the scene of a disaster — even at the risk of interrupting a parade — if that should become necessary. There does not seem to have been such a plan on Saturday.

The firearm used in the Mail was apparently a replica, which could fire blanks but not bullets. Heavy penalties exist for carrying such a replica without a licence, although there are no licensing controls. But a flourishing market has grown up in replicas, some of which can be altered so as to fire a low power projectile. They are so apt for use to create terror that the case is becoming increasingly serious for extending licensing controls to any kind of gun which can make a convincing bang.

But when all is planned and done, the Queen is still going to be at risk, unless she is put behind bullet-proof glass and surrounded by a defensive cordon of plain clothes gunmen. That is not what the Queen would like to see. However, her family may find the prospect of facing unknown danger, when they go out into the sunlight of their many public occasions, is a prospect she and they know has to be faced. They must be sustained by evidence of the nation's support and encouragement. The mystique of the monarchy cannot be manufactured in parliament; nor can it be protected by policemen, however many. Next time the drums roll for the National Anthem well might we say and pray: God save the Queen.

THE IRISH REWARDED WITH STALEMATE

The Irish voters having muffed their chance to choose a government, it is now for the politicians they elected to choose one for them; and it is anybody's guess what they will come up with. This is proportional representation at its less brilliant.

Mr Haughey called this premature election in order to win a personal mandate for his northern policy and in order to put himself in a strong enough position to impose on the public finances a discipline his government has not so far achieved, one that can be less safely skirted with every week that passes. The election has denied him that satisfaction, and has denied a similar advantage to any other potential prime minister. At a most inopportune time in the Republic's affairs it is condemned to a period of weak and unstable government. What Mr Haughey with a majority of seventeen did not feel strong enough to do in front of an election a year ahead, neither Mr Haughey nor Dr Fitzgerald with a majority of one or two is likely to feel strong enough to do in a parliament that cannot be expected to last much longer than that.

The H-block candidates polled better even than their own expectations. Here at least the political leaders in the Republic can come together in deploring Mrs Thatcher's part in the affair. They all profess to believe that more suppleness in a few judicious concessions stopping well short of any surrender

of principle, would bring the prisoners off their hunger-strike or at any rate stem the surge of active sympathy for them in the Roman Catholic population north and south of the border.

There is no denying that the spectacle of republican prisoners meeting their death in British jails has roused Irish emotions to a point at which it is assuming the form of effective political support for the Provisional IRA. This is a new and obviously serious development. British characterization of the prisoners as common criminals and suicides makes no impression on minds predisposed to view the matter in the pseudo-historical context of Irish republican violence and British coercion.

Flushed with its success in Louth and Monaghan the IRA should not have to wait long for the next emotional crisis. One of its successful candidates is three weeks into his fast. The Dail will not be still as one of its members approaches death in British custody, nor in this political stalemate will it be easily managed. If the man dies and a by-election is called the parliamentary leaders in the Republic will have the choice of risking humiliation or leading public opinion in a much more strident attack on British policy in Ulster. That would have repercussions on the political behaviour of both communities in the province.

With that prospect, and bearing in mind that it must always

be an objective of counter-terrorist policy to minimize the enemy's general political support, the case for concessions to the IRA may now look more attractive. The balance of the argument is still against it. Minor concessions, of the kind advocated by Mr John Hume for example, will be most unlikely to bring an end to the protest to death. The rewards the IRA are reaping from its gruesome sacrifice are too big to be exchanged for small relief. Concessions of that kind might temporarily move some of those who now lay the blame on the behaviour of the British to lay it on the behaviour of the prisoners. But their sympathy is not a product of a line of unreasoning idealism; it is a reaction to Irish republican deaths in British charge. If the deaths continue so will the reaction.

It would suit the IRA to call off the hunger strike for nothing less than a clear surrender of principle by the British authorities. The prestige, even the legitimacy, that would confer on the IRA would be matched only by the shame and disgrace of the Ulster Protestants on whom, directly or at one remove, it is making war. Nor is it certain that capitulation by the authorities in order to stop any more deaths in the Maze would have the effect of dispersing the pro-IRA vote which is growing both sides of the border. A vote cast as a mark of admiring sympathy is readily convertible into an acknowledgment of strength.

In a way, the Plumb report, and the committees of the other, diminishes hope that in a few days' time the Brussels Commission will be able to bring forward any authentically radical proposals to reform and reshape the CAP. One obvious and simple answer, attractive to some members of the Socialist group and even some Westminster Conservatives, would be to say that farm support, in part, should be a national rather than a direct Community responsibility.

There is no parliament in the Community where that proposition could be argued and debated following more easily recognition that farm support is for several countries a form of social and regional policy, so that a little fiddling by a small committee of budgetary experts would be justified. But in principle, engrained indelibly on the Community's original tablets of stone, the CAP must remain essentially as it is, and must be improved by improved administration, and with penalties on farmers for overproduction leading to costly surpluses.

Even then, MEPs are the first to see the irony of restricting food production in a day when world hunger is a newspaper cliché. Incidentally, one of the proposed new Community policies that CAP cuts might make possible comes from a group of Conservative MEPs, led by the influential Basil de Ferranti. They have tabled in the European parliament a technical motion about resource transfers, but the real point is that the Community should use much the same technique with urban unemployment and job mobility as it used, and still uses, through the CAP, for agriculture.

Politicians throughout the Community with its eight million unemployed, are scared stiff by factory closures, as the founding Six were scared by the loss of farming jobs. As Mr de Ferranti and his friends argue: "The CAP as a job-changing fund made and still makes a vital contribution. . . . Only a new policy, specifically aimed at assisting with the social problems caused by job-changing, covering the entire economy, can truly balance the (Community) budget."

That revenue it is proposed, should be used to finance job mobility and take the policies out of change. All in all, Strasbourg this week offers more political red meat than usual.

Questions over Poussin sale

From Mr Timothy Clifford
Sir, Mr Max Harari of Messrs Wildenstein misunderstands the situation over the Chatsworth Poussin (Frances Gibb, June 9). The picture was indeed offered to "every main museum in the country" but they did not all turn it down. The Manchester City Art Galleries were given by the Duke of Devonshire's solicitors less than a week to make a decision. We replied immediately stating that Manchester would wish to purchase but could not raise the necessary funds in time. Because the picture was being sold to set up a charitable trust the Trustees were empowered to sell for the highest price possible and, as there were widely differing valuations of the picture, sadly the Trustees did not favour a negotiated price. They decided to offer the picture at auction.

The Poussin was a special case in that little or no tax advantages were available to an English gallery that might wish to make acquisition by private treaty. Manchester attended the auction sale on April 10 and have since been reluctant in their desire to acquire the work. While there are other Poussins in public and private collections in London there are no Poussins in public collections in the North West or North East where the population far outstrips London.

The Chatsworth Poussin, which has been in England since at least 1725, is undeniably part of our national heritage and a sublime work of art. Manchester City Art Galleries, despite other serious commitments, will fight to save this picture but desperately need the financial help to do so. The withdrawal of an export licence. Yours faithfully, TIMOTHY CLIFFORD, Director, City Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester, June 10.

Case of PC Olds

From Professor Terence Morris
Sir, Mr Christopher Gane has fallen into the same trap as the former Advisory Council on the Penal System. He has misinterpreted the question of maximum sentences. It is perfectly true that the normal order of sentences for offences under S.28 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 is up to 14 years. But the maximum sentence is not 14 years. It is the maximum sentence that the maximum penalty exists to deal with instances where the offence approaches maximum severity for its kind. The circumstances surrounding the offences of the PC Olds suggest that Mr Justice Skinner took the view that this was not an ordinary "run-of-the-mill" offence. In all the circumstances, it seems to me that Mr Justice Skinner was right to impose his judgement. Yours faithfully, TERENCE MORRIS, Professor of Social Institutions in the University of London, The London School of Economics & Political Science, Houghton Street, WC2, June 11.

The Osirak raid

From Mr Lionel Bloch
Sir, May I comment on three misconceptions which seem to dominate the current debate following the destruction of Iraq's nuclear plant by Israel? 1. It is argued that this action will alienate many of Israel's friends. In fact, the Israel-Iraq conflict, which is supported by a public opinion and politicians to such an extent that the raid will not make any significant difference, to existing attitudes. 2. We are told that the Israeli raid has greatly increased tension in the Middle East. Yet, Iraq's efforts to manufacture atomic bombs, and her president's threats to use them against Israel, were never regarded as increasing the tension. This is absurd as blaming the post-operative condition of a cancer patient on the surgeon, rather than on the cancer itself. 3. Finally, there are hints from Washington that the Israeli raid will greatly increase the chances of Israel's authorizing the sale of AWACs to Saudi Arabia. In fact the raid will have the opposite effect because the Americans are now in no doubt as to what will happen to the aircraft once they are delivered to the Saudis. Yours faithfully, LIONEL BLOCH, 9 Wimpole Street, W1, June 12.

Guests of the NHS

From Dr D. G. H. Spilhaus
Sir, People of all political persuasions will welcome the Government's efforts to reduce any abuse of the Health Service. It is right therefore that they should clamp down on those who are abusing it. Come here for hospital treatment or to have a child under the aegis of the NHS. It appears, however, that they are over-reacting by including in their net those who are here to work or students on recognized courses of a year or more. Students from affluent nations may well be able to pay for their treatment, but these are in the minority. The majority come from third world countries and are on an extremely tight budget. Thousands of student health service visits are made for these students under the NHS creating a great deal of goodwill thereby. Many of them will return to hold offices of power and privilege in their own countries where goodwill towards the United Kingdom may not come across. The savings made by charging these students will almost certainly be outweighed by the administrative costs involved. It is too much to hope that the Minister will take another look at this piece of petty parsimony rather than stick too rigidly to a policy which is basically sound? Yours sincerely, D. G. H. SPILHAUS, Medical Officer-in-Charge, Sussex Health Service, Bruce Perry House, 25 Belgrave Road, Bristol.

Financing the Royal Navy's future

From Sir Patrick Wall, MP for Hatteridge (Conservative)
Sir, Admiral Stanfield Turner's article (June 12) is of considerable importance as the final decision on the future of the Royal Navy will soon be made. Although Britain is spending more on defence, the cost of ships, weapon systems, etc., is rising faster than this additional expenditure. The answer is therefore cut or to obtain more money from elsewhere. Admiral Turner has ably put the case against cuts, and it must be emphasised that Britain only contributes 10 per cent to the defence forces of the Central Front in Europe, whereas the Royal Navy contributes some 40 per cent of the defence forces in the Eastern Atlantic. If these are severely cut back, the reinforcements from the United States will not arrive in Europe in time of war and in these circumstances the central front could be held against a Soviet blitzkrieg.

The most immediate reaction will be from the Americans who have not yet been consulted and are likely to be very angry over a British cutback at a time when they are cutting their social services, in order to spend from seven to eight per cent more on defence. Our example could well be followed by other European nations who are also having economic difficulties; thus British action could start

Reporting Ulster

From Professor Thomas Wilson, FBA
Sir, In his article in your issue of June 4 Sir Ian Trethowan rightly observes: "The question of whether Northern Ireland should be reported, it must be — but how, and how much?" It is revealing, however, that he discusses this question with reference only to the public to be given to tourists and their activities. There are other issues that badly need to be considered. Is Sir Ian satisfied that those who hold moderate views are given a fair chance to express these views, especially those who belong to the British majority? Why is it that, among the politicians, the cameras should be focused so much more frequently on Dr Paisley than on any other political leader who is not a republican? Why has Dr Paisley been so persistently cast as the "spokesman for the majority" — in a way that has helped him enormously to camouflage his damaged political career outside Ulster? No official Unionist has had anything like comparable showing, and the Alliance Party has long been virtually ignored.

Is a campaign for historians to decide a qualification for appearing on the screen? Apart from the politicians, there are many other people who have been working constructively for reconciliation and peace in Ulster. The BBC, with its large office in Belfast, is well aware that they have had to do so with negligible assistance from the television authorities. It is a pity that the image of the province presented on our screens is as flat as it should be. We are all familiar with the pictures of dilapidated houses and burnt-out

Useful education

From Mr Peter Gorb
Sir, Prince Philip's views on the imbalance between academic education and "education for life" which are expressed in your second leader writer today (June 12), are also fully supported by a wide body of industrialists. The signatories of the published manifesto on Education for the 1990s, which is a heart-warming document, are almost all industrialists. However, the industrialists certainly cannot be blamed for accepting the certification on offer. After all, most of them are themselves victims of the implementation of the 1944 Education Act; said evidence to the snowballing effect of the educational process. Furthermore, I suspect that your leader writer is himself a victim. Here is the opening of the fourth paragraph of his leader: "Any argument for greater utility in education must start by rejecting the idea that it means denying access to the most rewarding kinds

Disarmament strategy

From Mr E. P. Thompson
Sir, Mrs Elizabeth Young (May 15) invokes once again President Carter's "peace plan" for "deep cuts" in strategic nuclear weapons, "even to 50 per cent", and asks whether I have forgotten it? Why should I have forgotten it? It was a heart-warming document, and Soviet negotiators ought to have responded to it. Why should she suppose I think otherwise? Instead of doing so, the Soviet negotiators have taken the bait in hand (Salt 2), then already in advanced negotiations, instead of for the "deep cuts" in the bush. In the end they got neither. Mrs Young will now very well that expert opinion is that the arms control community disputes how far President Carter's proposals were viable and how far they were intended for more than immediate political effect. In any case, the proposals deserved maximum public support, and I repeat (like many others) dazed through that episode. It is now Mrs Young's turn to doze. She appears not to have noticed that the United States has another President, that the USA has defaulted unilaterally on Salt 2, that US negotiators are being dragged (European opinion) kicking and screaming to a remote (and probably cosmetic) conference table — on "theatre" nuclear weapons, and that, so far as proposals go, Mr Brezhnev has now tabled ten to the United States none. This does not prove that the Soviet Union is "right" and NATO is "wrong". It proves, if anything, that superpower disarmament negotiations are either a non-starter or a disaster area. It is a direct untruth that I and my colleagues in END (European Nuclear Disarmament) regard the Soviet Union as "basically peace loving" and the Nato powers as "basically guilty". The END Appeal states flatly: "Gulf. Res squarely upon both parties. Both parties have adopted menacing postures and

Status of the Royal Ballet

From Mr Tony Devereux
Sir, Now that the Royal Ballet's 50th Anniversary Season has ended, the question posed by your ballet critic in an excellent article (May 25) needs to be opened to public debate: what went wrong? The obvious symptoms of the company's decline, such as its inability to give adequate development opportunities to its younger artists, and the tedious mediocrity of such crucial new productions as "Isadora", point to deeper problems. These can be traced back only to the present management structure and the status of the Royal Ballet at the Royal Opera House, where it seems an increasingly underprivileged partner. Perhaps the time has come to redefine this status in such a way as to restore the vigour of fully independent management to the Royal Ballet. In other words, the arrangement which brought the then Sadlers Wells Ballet to the Opera House after the war with mutual benefit, and which worked so well under the able leadership of Sir Robert Valois as Director, has ceased to function advantageously. It is in danger of allowing an institutional mentality to take hold, from which the ballet must be rescued by a strong management of its own if its future is to be up to the standard of the past. Yours faithfully, TONY DEVEREUX, 55a Blackacre Road, Thornton Bois, Essex.

Royal Family security

From Dr H. A. Shearring
Sir, No single procedure will protect the Queen and other members of the Royal Family from hazards such as today's (June 13). But there would be a better chance of fending off attacks if there were many more people facing the crowds, watching and prepared for instant action. Instant is vital. Today's misbegotten youth have the potential for violence and fire and next time there may be real bullets. There are not enough police or military to provide this saturation screen of protective observers during royal processions — occasions when the risk seems most high. But there are hundreds of thousands of people like myself who would be proud to serve in such a capacity. I am writing to you, Sir, to ask you to consider the possibility of having more people like me, for the sake of that system of freedom, order and service which she represents.

Expense would be small: register volunteers (probably at the local police station), checking their credentials, issuing an identity document, and drawing up a duty station plan. There is time to do this before the summer holidays. Yours faithfully, H. A. SHEARRING, 20 Tavistock Court, Tavistock Square, W.C1, June 13.

Party interests

From Mr R. Jennings
Sir, I believe that most Conservatives prefer the avowed policies of the Social Democratic Party to those likely to be adopted by the Labour Party, particularly if the swing to the left continues. I am a Conservative. Party must realize, even in their most optimistic moments, that there is no chance of their candidate being elected in Warrington, whoever they may select. Would it not be wise therefore for the Conservative Party not to field any candidate at all at the Warrington by-election, but instead to join the Liberals in supporting P. Jenkins? Yours faithfully, R. A. JENNINGS, Chenar, Mile Park, Hook Heath, Warrington, Surrey, June 10.

Draining the Broads

From Mr J. K. Bowers
Sir, I cannot follow the reasoning which leads Mr J. E. Hoosen (June 10) to conclude that it is for the conservation bodies to provide financial compensation if the Halvergate farmers are to be persuaded or prevented from conversion to arable. Conversion to arable requires the installation of larger pumps together with associated works to lower the water table. A substantial proportion of the funds for this will come directly from the taxpayer. Replacement of the pumps at existing capacity would be met by the Internal Drainage Board from normal financial provision for depreciation (they have presumably made such provision). Much of the extra profits from arable farming will also come from the taxpayer both via the excessive price levels maintained through the CAP and since there is certainly no shortage in the EEC of the crops likely to be grown, via the cost of storage and disposal of the surplus.

In these circumstances I should have thought that the onus is on the farmers to show the hard-pressed taxpayer why he should foot the bill. Yours faithfully, J. K. BOWERS, School of Economic Studies, University of Leeds, Leeds.

Old Vic closure

From Miss Lisbeth Jensen
Sir, I have just come from a performance of *The Merchant of Venice* by the London Old Vic Company. This performance had all the high standards traditionally associated with theatre in England, and I know of no other company visiting Denmark that can fill our largest theatre for three performances with the tickets sold out several weeks in advance. How can you just allow this company to slip? Surely they are worth a small subsidy as travelling ambassadors to counter your rampant football fans. Yours faithfully, LISBETH JENSEN, Egedalsvej 16, DK 2980 Kolkedal, Denmark, June 6.

David Wood

More red meat this time at Strasbourg

The June plenary sessions of the European parliament opening in Strasbourg today deserve uncommon attention in Britain, as much among the parliament's critics as its dwindling number of friends. For all the main content of the agenda will be directly relevant, for once, to British interests: above all, the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy and the restructuring of European Community policies to make sure that a fair proportion is kept between what a member country pays in and draws out.

Not only relevant but also timely. Within days the Brussels Commission is under orders to produce ideas designed to prevent the budgetary injustices Mrs Thatcher campaigned against at summit meetings. On July 1, United Kingdom ministers take over for six months as presidents-in-office of the Council of Ministers with a calculated strategy for carrying forward whatever new ideas the Commission initiates, so that Mrs Thatcher does not have to reopen her summit campaign in 1982 when the all-too-temporary expedients run out.

The CAP, of course, is the core of the spreading British disenchantment with membership of the Community. West Germany and Britain are the paymasters for it, and countries benefit off than Britain batter upon it. It is far from true that the political threat to Britain's continued membership would collapse if the CAP were to be radically reformed and reduced in cost, although it is true that the threat would have its edge blunted.

President Reagan's spending on defence, page 16

Business News

THE TIMES June 15 1981

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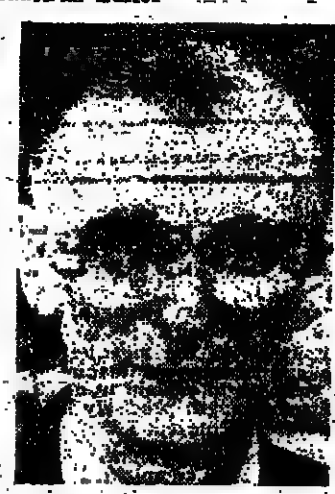
Stock markets
FT Index 323.3 FT Cilt: 66.03
Sterling
\$19.90 Index 95.1
Dollar
Index 109.0 DM 2.3947
Gold
\$471.50
Money
3 mth sterling 12 1/2-12 3/4 3 mth Euro \$ 17 1/2-17 3/4 6 mth Euro \$ 16 1/2-16 3/4
Friday's close

Post Office facing tight cash squeeze

By Peter Hill, Industrial Editor

Serious problems in financing vital capital expenditure on new buildings and maintenance and improvement of existing premises are being faced by the Post Office.

The organization is pressing ahead with mechanization of the postal service, but estimates that it will need to spend at least double last year's £75m capital expenditure in order to meet demands for postal mechanization and keep pace with the mounting arrears of maintenance and building improvement.



Mr. Ronald Dearing, Post Office chairman, is expected to underline these problems in forthcoming discussions with the Department of Industry.

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The Post Office owes about 3,000 officers around the country, and about a quarter of them are more than 60 years old.

Like other nationalized corporations, the Post Office is facing the Government's rigorous financial controls.

Within the next few weeks, the Post Office will report a further profit for its last financial year and that will boost its reputation to the Government to a total of about £80m over the past five years.

But senior executives are very concerned that the aging buildings which it occupies will become a major constraint on further improvements and efficiency.

In the current financial year, the Post Office has been set a financial limit of £10.5m, substantially below the £14m which it sought in discussions with ministers and the Treasury last autumn.

NEB wants industry to invest in robots

By Bill Johnston

The National Enterprise Board (NEB) is studying how it can encourage British industry to invest in robots.

Negotiations are now taking place which, if successful, would result in a number of financial institutions investing in the technology.

The project is meant to run in unison with a programme of the Department of Industry, which is being financed by the Government.

and has publicly encouraged British industry to automate.

Mrs Thatcher opened the Autumn '81 exhibition in Brighton last month by criticising those manufacturers who are reluctant to automate.

She defended the use of robots and dismissed them as a source of stress to job security. She quoted the example of Japan's 6,000 robots and its 2.4 per cent unemployment rate as an example.

But the British record in the use of robots is still very poor, rating a poor sixth in the world's robot league table.

Japan has 6,000, the United States 2,500, Sweden 1,200, Germany 1,133, Italy 400 and Britain 371, according to a survey conducted by the British Robot Association.

The Prime Minister is keen to promote the use of robots and has publicly encouraged British industry to automate.

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Bicycle maker criticized

By Our Commercial Editor

Raleigh's refusal to supply its cycles to some discount stores is clearly against the public interest, the National Consumer Council has told the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which is investigating the Raleigh case.

The council states: "If the current regulations governing sale of bicycles are inadequate to ensure that they are sold by dealers in a satisfactory condition, then these regulations should be strengthened."

The council takes up Raleigh's key argument that safety problems could arise if supplies went to retailers which would not provide adequate pre-sales servicing.

The Raleigh claim should be researched, the council says, but even if found to be valid, refusal to supply some retailers is still not necessarily the best way to ensure safety.

Consumers would have a wider choice of prices not only for bicycles but also for servicing if Raleigh stopped selling only to dealers it considered suitable, the council claims.

In its evidence to the commission, just handed in, the

French deficit higher

France's budget deficit was Fr47,050m (about £4,197m) during the first four months of this year compared with a deficit of Fr12,200m in the same period last year.

US eyes the coal trade

Congress has been urged to act quickly on proposals to deepen United States ports if the country is to gain its potential share of a rapidly expanding world coal trade.

Mr. Carl Bagge, the president of the National Coal Association, has said.

Co-op optimism

The Co-operative Wholesale Society, whose trading profit plunged 36 per cent last year, has shown improvement this year so far, with food turnover up 10 per cent by value, Mr. Peter Paxton, chairman, said at the society's annual meeting.

Gas find in Bangladesh

A new gas field with possible reserves of one trillion cubic feet has been found in Bangladesh at Feoi, about 80 miles from Dacca. Bangladesh already has reserves of 11 trillion cubic feet.

More margin debt

The New York Stock Exchange said margin customers increased their debt to member firms by \$70m (£35m) to a new record of \$14,700m.

Oil users to calm shortage fears

By Frances Williams

Measures to curb market over-reaction to minor shortfalls in world oil supplies will top the agenda at today's meeting in Paris of ministers from the 21 member countries of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the oil consumers' club.

The industrialized nations are anxious to prevent any repetition of the oil price explosion of 1973 when nervousness caused by the Iranian revolution, among other things, sent spot market prices soaring even though there was no significant shortage of supplies. Higher spot prices were quickly followed by higher term prices set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), which doubled over the year.

The Paris meeting takes place against the untimely background of a world oil glut, with supplies reckoned to exceed demand by between two and three million barrels a day, which is exerting considerable downward pressure on prices. IEA officials, who have repeatedly warned that the glut could disappear overnight, fear that this easy supply position may dampen ministers' sense of urgency over the proposed measures to cope with shortages.

Ministers are not expected to agree a workable scheme today. Instead they are likely to decide to open formal consultations with the major oil companies, in the hope that practical proposals can be put to the IEA Governing Board early in 1982.

In addition to supporting early agreement on these measures, Britain is particularly keen to get a firm commitment from member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to get support for the government's stand from the United States, Japan and West Germany, among others.

Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, that recovery from world recession is likely to be delayed until the end of this year. Inflation in OECD countries is expected to fall only slowly from 10 per cent now to 8 per cent in the year to the second half of 1982, while unemployment is predicted to rise steeply to a peak of 26 million by mid-1982.

The signs are that, in contrast to meetings over the past year or so, ministers will be less than unanimous in agreeing that lower inflation is the overriding priority for economic policy and that tight money and fiscal policies are the best way of dealing with it.

Energy and foreign ministers, including Mr. David Howell, the Secretary of State for Energy, will discuss measures to help member countries when oil supplies fall below requirements but by less than 7 per cent. The IEA already has complicated and detailed crisis arrangements to cope with a drop of more than 7 per cent.

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Travellers cheque deal in jeopardy

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Midland Bank's plan to sell its Travellers Cheque subsidiary to a consortium of European banks has run into serious problems because of a last-minute change of heart by the West German banks involved.

The £16m deal involved the transfer of the travellers cheque business to Europ Travellers Cheques (ETC), in which Midland would retain a stake. It was designed to set up a powerful European travellers cheque system to challenge the dominance of American Express, which controls about 40 per cent of the world travellers cheque market.

Writing on wall for ballpoints

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Ballpoint pens; the last big revolution in Britain's £700m sales writing instrument market, have run out of growth in face of a new technology—the rollerball. The rollerball uses the free wet ink flow found in fibre and fountain pens but dispenses the ink by a ballpoint. The older ballpoints employ thicker oil-based ink.

Half a dozen manufacturers have already jumped on the rollerball bandwagon which was started as long ago as 1973 by Pentel, of Japan. Sales have really started just over three years ago and rollerballs by value now account for 17 per cent of total writing instrument sales.



Mr. Jacques Margry of Parker, lining up the UK market sales director, aiming at a 40 per cent share by the end of 1982.

Pentel, which has widened its range from the original disposable rollerball to make up-market rollerballs, is still market leader by a large margin, accounting for about half the total sales. But it is facing increasing competition from other manufacturers, particularly from the British subsidiary of France's Bic SA, which is world leader in production of throw-away ballpoint pens.

Mr. Jacques Margry of Parker, lining up the UK market sales director, aiming at a 40 per cent share by the end of 1982.

Bic was late into the British rollerball market, but says that was partly because it wanted to get the product right. Bic uses a tungsten-carbide ball tip which it claims eliminates distortion between the ball and its housing to produce more even ink flow.

Commission accused over research report

By Rupert Morris

The Manpower Services Commission (MSC) has been accused by its private sector partners of trying to suppress a research project.

The project, a study of community business ventures, was commissioned and funded by the MSC (which contributed £10,000), the Calsonic Foundation (£10,000), Shell (£5,000), National Westminster Bank (£5,000) and GEC (£5,000).

High costs damaging British papermakers

By Edward Townsend

Britain's paper and board industry, which closed a fifth of its capacity last year, is continuing to suffer from high energy and imported raw material costs. Four paper mills have closed this year with the loss of 1,798 jobs.

Yellow metal's price remains barometer of world political and economic conditions

Gold still gleams in bankers' eyes

From Frank Vogel, Washington, June 14

Nobody wants increased international political tensions, less confidence in paper currencies and more inflation, yet it is such conditions that promote higher gold prices. It is to a large degree valid to suggest that the gold price is a barometer of global political and economic conditions, rising when times are bad, falling when they are good.

Visiting Switzerland last week I met several bankers who argued that the gold price must rise over the next few years, due to the unsettled state of the world. It would not be the slightest bit surprising to discover that the men at the BIS hold this view.

Over the last few years, due to the huge gains in the gold price in the late 1970s and the abandonment of regulations preventing private gold ownership, increasing numbers of individuals have speculated in the gold markets. They have borrowed to buy gold and they have pushed cash into gold, rather than into United States Treasury bonds, believing they would obtain a larger short-term yield.

For these gamblers in the gold market it is interest rates that are now proving to be of crucial significance. The decline in American interest rates about a year ago revived the gold price for a time, but the recent surge in rates served to chip the gloss off the metal's attractiveness.

Britain's paper and board industry, which closed a fifth of its capacity last year, is continuing to suffer from high energy and imported raw material costs. Four paper mills have closed this year with the loss of 1,798 jobs.

Two weeks ago, Yates Dugbury, the Lancashire papermaker, went into receivership and the British Paper and Board Industry Federation says that lack of profitability is now "the one clear element" throughout the industry.

BRIDGEND PROCESSES PLC

Notice is hereby given of the appointment of Lloyds Bank Limited as Registrar.

All documents for registration and correspondence should in future be sent to the address below.

F.C.FLOOD, C.A. SECRETARY

Lloyds Bank Limited, Registrars Department, Goring-by-Sea, Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA. Telephone: Worthing 502541 (STD code 0903)

Lloyds Bank Limited

Capitalization and week's change

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

* Ex dividend. a Ex alt. b Forecast dividend. c Corrected price. e Interim payment passed. f Price at suspension. g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid for company. i Pre-merger figures. j Forecast earnings. k Ex capital distribution. r Ex rights. s Ex scrip or share split. t Tax free y Price adjusted for late dealings. .. Nq significant data.

PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by
Peter Dear

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: Genetics. 7.05 Plasticity in the Nervous System. 7.30 Men, Machines and the Secretary. Closedown at 7.55.

9.52 For Schools, Colleges: The Energy Burners. 10.15 Dancing. 10.40 Bridges. 11.00 Talking opinion polls. 11.25 You and Me (not Schools) (r). 11.40 Leisure time in Spain. Closedown at 12.00.

1.15 pm News.

1.30 Heads and Tails. Migratory birds (r). Closedown at 1.45.

2.01 For Schools, Colleges: Words and Pictures. 2.18 Living in the Iron Age. 2.40 The Furniture Industry. Closedown at 3.00.

3.15 Songs of Praise introduced by Thora Hird (shown yesterday at 6.40). 3.55 Play School. For the under-fives (shown earlier on BBC 2). 4.20 Chessers Plays Pop. Games and pop music introduced by Keith Chegwin. 4.40 The All-New

Popeye Show. Two cartoons featuring the resilient able seaman. 5.00 John Cleese's Newsround. World news for young people. 5.05 Blue Peter. Peter Duncan visits Caterick Camp in Yorkshire to learn some of the secrets of the famous White Hamlets motorbike display riders. 5.35 Padidragon (r). 5.40 News read by Kenneth Kendall. 5.55 Regional news magazines.

6.20 Nationwide presented by Frank Bough and Sue Lawley.

6.50 Ask the Family. The first quarter final of the family general knowledge quiz chaired by Robert Robinson. Tonight's contestants are the Burgess Family of Cromarty and the Llandudno-based Griffiths Family.

7.15 Blake's Seven. Villi struggles to open a mysterious vault. If he fails he will be killed. If he succeeds his reward is only marginally better.

8.10 Panorama presented by David Dimbleby. Africa: interviews with young guerrillas. (See Personal Choice).

8.30 News read by Kenneth Kendall.

8.55 A Town Like Alice. The first of a four-part series, shown on consecutive nights, of the famous Nevil Shute novel, starring Helen Morse, Bryan Brown and Gordon Jackson. (See Personal Choice).

11.35 News headlines.

11.45 The Micro. Brian Redhead examines the implications of micro-chip technology in industry. (r)

12.00 Weather.

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Wales 2.30 pm-1.45 PM. 6.50-7.15 pm. 1.15 Scottish News. N.B. This list of regional variations is incomplete because of an industrial dispute within the BBC.

BBC 2

6.40 am Open University: Frederick and Voltaire. 7.05 Air Force. 7.30 The Research Idea. Closedown at 7.55.

11.05 Play School. For the under-fives and presented by Elizabeth Millbank and Don Spencer. The story is Gene Zion's Harry by the Sea. Closedown at 11.25.

1.15 pm News.

1.30 Heads and Tails. Migratory birds (r). Closedown at 1.45.

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7.30 Plants in Action. Alan Ribbert shows how plants grow without the need for soil.

7.55 Arthur Negus Enjoys. Saltram House, Plymouth, is the object of Mr Negus's affections this evening, and with him on his sentimental journey is television cook, Mary Berry, who will explain how some of the four hundred copper kitchen utensils were used.

8.10 The Two Ronnies. Barker and Corbett continue with their spry string series, The Worm. Barker and Corbett sing some songs. (r)

9.00 The Paul Daniels Magic Show. Comic wizardry plus guests Jeffrey Atkins (illusionist), Teddy Pelfo and Patricia (magician) (r).

9.40 The Making of Mankind. The final part of the investigation into the origins of man by Richard Leakey.

10.30 The Light of Experience. Daphne Schuder recalls how her months of captivity helped her develop a rare understanding with her daughter, Annabel.

10.45 Newsnight. The latest home and international news plus a lengthy look at one of the stories that made today's headlines.

11.35 International Golf: The Day Jack Came Back. Highlights of the 1980 United States Open Championship, won by Jack Nicklaus, his first major championship win for two years. The programme ends at 12.15 am.

Thames

9.30 am For Schools: Symmetry. 9.47 Computers as an aid for medicine. 10.05 Corners. 10.25 Simple Maths. 10.40 French conversation. 11.05 All about the Olympics for hearing-impaired children. 11.22 Cartoon version of Rossini's Thieving Magpie. 11.39 History. 12.05 We'll Tell You a Story. Christopher Clugger with two tales for young viewers. 12.10 pm Rainbow. Geoffrey Hayes and his puppet friends learn how to get into sleeping bags. 12.30 Home and Design. Floors are the subject today and the guests are Jill Blake, David Luckham and Alec Elwick (r).

1.00 News read by Peter Siddons. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 The Diana Dore Show. The first of a new series of five chat shows hosted by the indestructible and sometimes outrageous Miss Dore. Her guests include Dave Cooper, a male stripper. (See Personal Choice). 2.00 The River. A serial about Irish rural life.

2.30 Film: Only Two Can Play? (1962) starring Peter Sellers and Mai Zetterling. Very funny story about a down-at-heel Welsh librarian whose attempts to seduce ladies is invariably and in disaster frustrated.

4.15 Cartoon: My Little Duckaroo. 4.20 Now for Noddy. Roger de Courcy and his bear Noddy in the first of a new series.

4.45 Spectrum. Linda Kennedy and Mike Sheridan with uses for plastics.

5.15 Money-Go-Round. Joan Shenton and Tony Bascombe test four pairs of overalls to see which one is the greatest fire hazard and also give some disturbing facts about legal aid.

5.45 News. 6.00 Thames News with Andrew Gardner and Rita Court.

6.35 Crossroads. Benny is the victim of a hit and run driver. 7.00 The Krypton Factor introduced by Gordon Burns. Another round in the competition.

7.15 The River. A serial about Irish rural life.

7.30 Coronation Street. Rita

Fairclough learns about a local girl in trouble.

8.00 Sorry, I'm a Stranger Here. A new comedy series about a dull librarian who is forced to share his home with a family home. Robin Bailey stars.

8.30 World in Action. Disenchanted Tory MPs are questioned on their dispute over the Government's economic strategy.

9.00 Quincey. The investigating pathologist is convinced that the death of a former Grand Prix driver in a car crash was not an accident.

10.00 The Sweeney. Regan is on the trail of an armed thug as well as the missing wife of a colleague in this week's tale of a flying squad.

11.30 Great. Fight of the Seventies. Highlights of the John Conteh/Matthew Sade Muhammad/Franklin fight.

12.25 am News with Sir John. News headlines and a look at the day's events.

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